Sandwell
CHRONICLE

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£125,000 move to restore Oak House's unique belvedere

HISTORIC TOWER WORK TO BEGIN

Report by Richard Guttridge

A £125,000 PROJECT to restore the historic viewing tower at a 500-year-old Tudor house is expected to get under way next month.

Urgent repairs are needed to restore the crumbling belvedere at the Grade II-listed Oak House in West Bromwich – believed to be the only remaining structure of its kind in Britain.

Sandwell Council is expected to choose a contractor to carry out the work in the coming weeks, after which time the major project will get under way.

Work is needed to repair the tower's timber structure and the exterior wall panels, which have been rapidly deteriorating. The project, which has been entirely funded by Sandwell Council, is expected to take around five months to complete and will see scaffolding put up outside the building throughout the summer.

Sandwell museums manager Frank Caldwell said: "There are not many people who can do the work, it's quite specialised.

"We're going to wait until after the Bank Holiday and an assessment will be made during the first week of May. We hope to be able to make an appointment very shortly afterwards."

Panelling

Mr Caldwell said it is important that work begins as soon as possible. He added: "We expect, unfortunately, the building to be scaffolded throughout the summer. Some of the work we're doing requires line plaster and it doesn't like the cold, damp and frost. We're not looking to go past October."

The tower has been part of the building since the 17th century. A survey has shown work is needed on the tower's timber failed panelling and flashing. Other work to the house will include the replacement of guttering and downpipes across the whole building. There will be a new internal gutter to take rainwater from the central roof span through the roof space and a major programme of timber repairs to the front porch.

It is believed to be the only remaining timber-framed belvedere in the country.

Mr Caldwell said he was always looking of ways to restore the building. He said: "If we can do something equivalent next year then we will come back next year. We want to remove the thick, black, bituminous plastic that was put on in the 1950s to keep the water out, so we might see a different looking Oak House in a few years."

FLYING THE FLAG FOR VE DAY COMMEMORATIONS

Museum assistant Anne Willetts and visitor services officer Alison Hyatt prepare for the VE Day 70th anniversary event at Haden Hill House

HADEN Hill House Museum is hosting a free event for all ages on Bank Holiday Monday to mark the 70th anniversary of VE Day. The fun and nostalgic event runs from noon to 4pm at the Victorian house and in Haden Hill Park, off Barrs Road, Cradley Heath.

"There will be some fabulous live music with Martinique Jazz so why not bring a picnic to enjoy and take part in our street party," said Alison Hyatt, Sandwell's visitor services officer. There will be 1940s costumed characters in the house and grounds, as well as some fabulous historic vehicles including a 1940s tea truck. Visitors can enjoy family entertainment, including a children's entertainer, quizzes, trails and workshops, and handle some World War II objects.

Alison added: "A visitor once told us that on VE day in 1945 Haden Hill Park was buzzing with entertainment and bunting and there were people everywhere. We also know the house was used as a food store, to house bombed-out families and as a holding place for evacuees before they were given places to stay. So the house has an important connection to the homefront in World War II." And Haden Hall, next to Haden Hill House, will also be open to the public and the new colour scheme inside will be revealed. For more details, call the museum on 01384 569444.

Other VE Day commemorations in Sandwell include lighting a beacon, one of a national chain across the country. Sandwell will light a beacon on the Rowley Hills on Friday 8 May at 9.32pm. On Sunday 10 May, a commemorative service will be held in Oldbury Civic Square at 10.30pm. The Mayor will join members of the Royal British Legion at the War Memorial.

ENVIRONMENT

Action plea after pub site hit by fly-tippers

RESIDENTS are calling for action after a derelict pub in Oldbury has become a target for fly-tipping. Littered with mattresses and bin liners, the Newbury Tavern has become an eyesore in the area.

Although environmental health officers have removed rubbish in previous months, they have now said they do not have the sufficient funds to continue to do so. Resident Geoff Wesson said: "It has just turned in to a dumping ground. If anyone comes to the estate it looks terrible. The pub has been in such a state for a long time."

BUSINESS

£5,000 grants to help launch firms

A SCHEME will give grants of up to £5,000 to people to start their own businesses in Sandwell. The awards are available for people who want to transform their community with innovative business ideas that tackle important social issues.

The Sandwell Social Entrepreneur Programme Do It Award provides funds to help people take their business plan further. Email sweda@sweda.org.uk or paulsquires@unltd.org.uk or lucy_monk@sandwell.gov.uk by June 1.

BLAZE

Shed and garage wrecked by fire

FLAMES ripped through a garden destroying a shed and garage in Oldbury after a fire was started by children playing with matches.

Crews from Oldbury fire station said the destruction of the fire was caused by children who lit the blaze from matches.

Firefighters arrived shortly after 5pm on Sunday to the blaze in Springfield Road to tackle the flames. In a message on the station's Twitter account firefighters said the blaze was started in a dumped fridge freezer.

Two fire crews from the station left the scene at around 6.15pm.

INSIDE

SLADE'S FLAME BURNS BRIGHT

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Girl, 3, is thrown from car in smash

The crash scene at Tipton

A THREE-YEAR-OLD girl was thrown from a car and left with serious head injuries following a crash in Tipton.

Her mother was also badly hurt in the smash and had to be cut out of her Ford Focus after it was involved in a collision with a Volkswagen Golf in Park Lane West at 1.15pm on Monday.

The force was such that the crash threw the young girl from the car and onto the road and left both vehicles with serious damage. The youngster remained at Birmingham Children's Hospital overnight, but her injuries are not thought to be life-threatening.

She remained conscious at the scene and was comforted by bystanders until paramedics arrived. She suffered a head injury and was complaining about neck and back pain. It took firefighters 50 minutes to free her mother, a woman in her 20s, from her car.

She suffered pelvis injuries was taken to Birmingham's Queen Elizabeth Hospital. Her one-year-old son, was also in the car, was not hurt but was taken to Birmingham Children's Hospital as a precaution. The man driving the Golf was assessed for a collarbone injury but did not require hospital treatment.

The busy road was closed for more than an hour following the crash.

Ambulance service spokesman Jamie Arrowsmith said: "Crews arrived to find two cars that had been in collision, one with front-end damage and one with damage to the side of the vehicle. Crews were told that a three-year-old girl had been ejected from the vehicle with damage to its side. She was assessed and treated for a head injury, as well as neck and back pain, before being taken to Birmingham Children's Hospital by land ambulance. Thankfully her injuries are not thought to be life threatening.

Residents hit out at ex-landfill site pong

RESIDENTS on a West Bromwich estate are up in arms over an 'atrocious' smell that has drifted over their homes from a former landfill which is being turned into a housing development.

They say the smell from the nearby development on Hall Green Road in Stone Cross has become noticeably worse in recent weeks as the weather has got warmer.

Developers Mar City are currently carrying out remedial work on the site to rid it of chemicals that have gone into the ground over the past 50 years. They will then build 250 homes on the site.

The site was quarried for sand and gravel during the 1950s and was then used for landfill, with oils and chemicals put into the ground over the years.

Inspection of the land found it was not constructed properly to receive wastes and that few records existed as to what was actually dumped. The remediation currently being carried out will make the land safe for new development.

Mrs Lawley, aged 47, who lives in Campfield Crescent, said: "My dad has lived on the estate since it was first built in 1955. He used to go up there and the ground would bubble.

"They told us essential remedial work would be done and it wouldn't affect us at all, we wouldn't experience any problems. There is a terrible, terrible smell. It is atrocious, it is making me feel sick."There have been some of the hottest days of the year recently but I can't hang the washing out, I'm cooped up in the house."

Julie Horlick, 38, of Campville Crescent, said: "It is quite bad some days. It's a putrid, gassy smell.

"When they first started digging there was a bit of a smell but with the weather getting warmer it has got worse"

Mar City Homes said it was aware of the problems and was scaling back planned operations on site during the summer.

Company spokeswoman Martine Bridge said: "We would like to reassure the local residents that there are no health and safety issues associated with the development site. We are aware of the odour issues and are working in conjunction with the council to find the best solution."

Phoenix pupils fired up by report

Phoenix Collegiate headteacher Gary Hill with Year 7 students in the school's literacy centre

A WEST Bromwich secondary school has now been rated "good" by Ofsted – less than two years after inspectors said it needed to improve. Phoenix Collegiate headteacher Gary Hill praised everyone involved with the school for the rapid progress made to achieve the improved rating. In their report published last Friday, Ofsted inspectors praised Mr Hill's "inspirational leadership".

This means the school has "a 'no limits' culture driven by the uncompromising belief that all students can and will be successful as they move onto the next stage of their life", they said. The school had received a "requires improvement" rating in its previous Ofsted inspection in May 2013.

Visiting the school again in March this year, inspectors highlighted a determined and successful drive from the school's senior leaders and governors to raise standards and improve teaching.

They praised the school's "relentless focus on the importance of reading" as well as regular tracking of students' learning, which helps leaders intervene to support those falling behind.

They said students are proud of their school and feel safe and well-cared for. Highly productive relationships between students and with their teachers mean students behave well and helps create a culture of high aspiration and success.

Inspectors also praised the "well managed" sixth form.

500 jobs are under threat in relocation plan for firm

FIVE hundred jobs will be axed in Wednesbury under plans to close a huge distribution centre. Dixons Carphone plans to close its doors and relocate to Newark in Nottinghamshire.

Bosses said staff would be offered jobs at the new site – more than 80 miles from the distribution and repairs centre off Bilston Road. Workers were informed on Tuesday and a formal consultation has been launched. Bosses at the firm, which followed a merger between Carphone Warehouse and Currys Pc World last year, insist it is just a proposal at this stage and no final decision has been made.

However, it is anticipated that any relocation from the West Midlands will be completed by early next year, with some even saying the whole Wednesbury site could be closed by November.

Councillor Elaine Costigan said many workers would not be willing to up sticks and move to Newark. "It is sad news for Wednesbury," she said. "We have got Lidl coming with 500 jobs but then we have now got the possibility of 500 jobs going. It is devastating and I just wish they would rethink the whole thing."

Worker Naomi McCarthy, aged 21, from Hill Top, said: "I am disappointed but there is nothing I can do. It is too far for me to commute and I have got a mortgage. I am going to start looking for another job." Dixons Carphone said the proposal comes following a review of the business but bosses said they acknowledged the 'knowledge and experience' of the workers in Wednesbury.

Jazz theme for Rep gala dinner

BIRMINGHAM Repertory Theatre is holding a jazz-themed gala dinner in the summer. On Saturday, June 20 the theatre's vast set construction workshop will be transformed into a 1920s jazz club.

As part of the evening a murder mystery tale will be staged with guests invited to play detective and solve the clues. Anya Sampson, development manager at Birmingham Repertory Theatre said; "We are thrilled to reveal the theme for this special gala dinner which promises a night of mystery against the glamorous backdrop of the 1920s."

A table of 12 costs £2,100. Pairs of tickets are also available. To book contact Rachel Cranny at Birmingham Repertory Theatre on 0121 245 2163 or e-mail Rachel.cranny@birmingham-rep.co.uk

Editors to play concert at Brum

ROCK band The Editors will play in their home city of Birmingham in October. The band is soon to release its fifth album and will be in action at the O2 Academy on October 16 with tickets £20. The Editors' last album The Weight of Your Love was released two years ago.

App to help firms gets backing of top official

A SANDWELL trading standards boss has welcomed a new digital app to help businesses to stay on top of regulatory developments and to keep on the right side of the law.

Bob Charnley, trading standards manager at Sandwell Council, said the new app published by the Central England Trading Standards Authorities was another exciting step in reaching out to the business community by going digital.

The Authorities group has introduced the new app – TSBN (Trading Standards Business News) – which will be freely available to all businesses in an electronic version of the popular service.

The News has been the "go-to " resource for businesses who want to stay on top of regulatory developments for nearly a decade. It carries informative and in-depth articles regarding regulation across many different industry sectors.

The magazine can be downloaded from an application which can be used on a range of devices, including smartphones, tablets and PCs, and is available from Apple's App Store, Google Play and Amazon.

Mr Charnley said: "It will also be much easier for us to share information and articles via social media, further expanding our readership."

The newsletter is published quarterly, areas covered in the next edition include articles about allergens, changes to consumer's rights, tobacco advertising and the use of food colourings in sauces.

School heads in right direction

A SCHOOL in Oldbury is heading in the right direction, Ofsted has said, after being told it needed to improve.

Leaders at the Bristnall Hall Academy are making big strides according to the education watchdog. Bristnall Hall was rated as 'requires improvement' following an inspection in November. At the time, Ofsted said not enough pupils were making good progress and that teaching was not 'consistently inspiring or interesting'.

In a letter signed by the head of Ofsted Sir Michael Wilshaw, it was said headteacher Vince Green had 'galvanised staff and significantly increased the pace of improvement'.

Warning on fake festival tickets

FESTIVAL-GOERS are being warned to avoid buying tickets from unofficial sources as trading standards officers launch a crackdown on fakes, including the up-coming V Festival.

Anyone who suspects fake merchandise is being sold in Staffordshire should contact a confidential helpline on 01785 330356.

Footballers triumph in tournament

Tom Hargreaves and James Beardsmore holding the trophy

A COLLEGE football team is celebrating after winning a national tournament.

Walsall College's Supported Learning Football Team triumphed in the Football for Students with a Disability tournament at the Association of Colleges (AoC) National Sports Championships.

The team of 12 players, who have a range of disabilities or impairments, made it through to the finals after reaching the top spot in the regional round.

In the final they beat off tough competition from six teams representing college's around the UK to clinch the trophy. The squad claimed victory after winning four of their six games, drawing one and only losing one, while scoring 10 goals.

The AoC National Sport Championships took place in Bath and saw more than 1,800 college students compete in various sports.

Walsall College sports development co-ordinator, Mark Howard, said: "This is an incredible triumph for the team and everyone involved is extremely proud of the success that has been achieved. It's hard to believe but the students only started playing together in September."

40,000 people line streets for Vaisakhi

AN estimated 40,000 people lined the streets of Sandwell to celebrate one of the biggest Vaisakhi festivals in the world.

The holy procession started outside the Gurdwara Baba Sang Ji in St Paul's Road, Smethwick and made its way to Handsworth Park where it met up with another parade from Hockley.

Together around 100,000 revellers took part in the two events over the weekend.

Vaisakhi is an important festival in the Sikh calendar and celebrates the initiation ceremony of the Khalsa Brotherhood in 1699. Revellers started to gather early on the Sunday morning, many of them dressed in the Khalsa's traditional colours of orange and blue.

The procession was led by the Panj Piare – representing the first Sikhs to be baptised by the Guru – on a float containing the holy Sikh scripture the Guru Granth Sahib.

Onlookers lined the streets, and many of them bowed their heads in reverence as the scripture passed by.

Daughters

Along the way they took in three other places of worship – Guru Nanak Gurdwara in High Street, Smethwick, Gurdwara Shaheed Baba Deep Singh Ji and Gurdwara Bebe Nanaki Ji, both in Handsworth.

Jaspal Singh, aged 47, from Smethwick, took part in the parade with his wife and two daughters.

He said: "It's a really nice event. There's always a good crowd and people from all cultures can enjoy it."

Jagdev Singh, a member of Birmingham's Council of Sikh Gurdwaras, said: "The festival is always big," he added. "People from all backgrounds gather to celebrate the creation of the Sikh faith.

"It's a joyous occasion. Not only is this the biggest open air celebration outside of the Punjab, but it's the only gathering where two parades converge."

Refreshments, which included traditional Indian food, were served up free of charge by groups of volunteers. Buses were also laid on by travel firm Thandi for those who were unable to manage the route on foot.

The parade culminated with a huge party in Handsworth Park.

Wearing the traditional dress in the orange and blue Sikh robes as part of the procession for Vaisakhi

Awaiting the start of the parade on Sunday

The thousands of people taking part in the sunshine

NEWS IN BRIEF

£9,000 manure clean up costs

ALMOST £9,000 is being spent on a clean-up of a pile of horse manure and waste dumped on open land in Tipton.

Councillors have condemned those responsible for dumping the stinking waste on the site, known locally at The Railer. Bags of rubbish, rusting shopping trolleys and manure feature in the mess near homes off Hawthorn Road. Specialist clean-up teams have been called in by Sandwell Council.

In total the bill comes to £8,885.

Ward councillor Joanne Hadley said the council is 'disappointed' to have to spend taxpayers cash on the clean-up.

Body of man found in canal

POLICE searching for a missing West Bromwich man have found a body in a Birmingham canal.

Sidonio Conceico had not been seen since he visited his brother at a friend's house in Birmingham last Friday. Formal identification will take place in due course, and the death is not being treated as suspicious.

The 35-year-old stayed only minutes at his brother's home in Ladywood, before leaving for West Bromwich where he lives with family. The body was found in a canal in Winson Green shortly before 11.45am on Saturday.

Creating write language skills

Multilinguals can put pen to paper in a series of creative writing workshops in West Bromwich. The free events are aimed at adults who want to write in a mix of languages and express themselves creatively.

The workshops will be led by Somali writer Shirin Ramzanali Fazel and take place on May 12, 19 and 20 between 6.30pm and 8.30pm at Sandwell Arts Café, in Central Sixth.

For details contact naomi.wells@warwick.ac.uk

Probe under way on cause of shed blaze

AN investigation is under way after a timber shed accidentally caught fire at a home in Brownhills town centre.

A neighbour spotted smoke at coming from the back garden of the property, in Silver Street, shortly before 1.45pm on Wednesday.

Acting Crew Commander Craig Stanley, of Aldridge Fire Station, said: "It was started accidentally and is subject to an investigation. The occupier was in the house at the time. A neighbour saw the smoke and rang 999."

£60k roads boost

ALMOST £60,000 of improvements are set to be made to a busy road in Walsall. West Bromwich Road in Delves is being considered for up to four new traffic islands. The improvements being looked at by specialist traffic officers would be between Walstead Road and Greenside Way.

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

"PERHAPS too much Cognac." Manager Michael Grange's priceless explanation of the fire at Oxford's famous Randolph Hotel, thought to have been caused by someone cooking a beef flambe.

THAT P-word keeps popping up. People keep banging on about "progressive" politics. Have you noticed how they never tell us what they are progressing towards?

BALLOT Monkeys (C4) is a new political satire on the General Election which claims it is "so topical it hasn't been written yet." Oh, yeah? Some of the gags in the first episode had whiskers on them. Even so, it was a fair and funny effort. I loved the wonderful Sarah Hadland as the Ukip activist who can't open her mouth without going off-message (Breastfeeding? Yuk)

THIS week's rash of revelations about massive salaries and pay rises for senior NHS executives should surely focus minds on how the health service spends its money. Apparently not. When party leaders talk about the future of the NHS, they always pledge more money, as if the sole aim is to spend as much as possible. Isn't it obvious by now that the many-headed leviathan of NHS management is perfectly capable of absorbing every penny the nation throws at it (currently £115,000 million and rising), while still delivering some of the longest queues and worst cancer-outcome rates in the developed world?

SNP leader Nicola Sturgeon says of her manifesto: "This is about how we deliver better politics, not just for people in Scotland but right across the UK." This is presumably the same UK that Ms Sturgeon and her pals want to destroy.

HOW finance works. My credit-card company, noticing that I never spend up to my credit limit, has just reduced my limit by £2,000. This releases £2,000 which they can then lend to some poor devil already up to his eyeballs in debt. The leaden lifebelt.

A READER writes: "With the election looming, there are far too many political jokes doing the rounds. The snag is, some of them will get elected."

IT is a wonderful spring for cherry blossom. When the cherries appear, the finches we see for only a few fruit-rich days per year will descend and take the lot in an orgy of scoffing. Yesterday I saw a brief flash of colour over our blossom-covered cherry tree. Some would see it as a rare sighting of a gorgeous little bullfinch. I see it as a recce for much gorging to come, the first spotter plane before the blitz.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Farm goes up for sale at £450,000

A FORMER working farm has been put up for sale for £450,000 after council bosses were unable to find a new tenant. Forge Farm in West Bromwich is on the market after Sandwell Council decided to offload the one-and-a-half acre site.

It is based opposite the popular visitor attraction, Forge Mill Farm, but has been vacant for weeks. The land is off Forge Lane, which has recently faced calls for improved security action over a spate of accidents.

Residents have also raised concerns with councillors over the loss of the farm site to new developers. But councillors have said they will ensure there are no proposals which are detrimental to the site and surrounding Sandwell Valley country park.

Forge Farm is being sold by estate agents Fisher German. It is marketed as in need of renovation and includes a range of outbuildings.

Matthew Barker, who is a partner at the firm's Worcester office, said: "This is a rare opportunity to acquire an historic farmhouse."

Sandwell Council director for regeneration and economy, Nick Bubalo, added: "The properties are considered suitable for conversion to residential use."

Forge Farm, in Sandwell Valley

Trader keeps licence despite fake cigarettes

By Dominic Bareham

An OFF licence was found to be selling illegal tobacco worth £555.75 during a series of trading standards investigations.

However, Sandwell Council's licensing committee decided not to suspend Kuldip Randhawa's licence to run Jin's Convenience Store in Tipton after accepting his defence that he was not aware of the tobacco.

It was brought into his shop by a Polish employee who he later sacked. The tobacco, which included 44 packets containing 20 cigarettes and nine pouches containing 50g of hand rolling tobacco, was found by Sandwell trading standards officers in a black laptop bag underneath the shop's counter.

Senior trading standards officer Toan Nguyen said Sandwell councillor Peter Allen, who was not present at the committee meeting, had received a complaint about the shop selling illegal cigarettes.

An officer visited the shop in Toll End Road on August 20 last year, but did not find any illegal cigarettes or tobacco.

On December 12, trading standards received another complaint that the shop was selling 'dodgy cigarettes and vodka,' and an inspection was carried out six days later, but nothing was found An undercover officer then conducted a test purchase and was sold four packets containing 20 illegal cigarettes for £12 and on January 30 trading standards officers visited the shop for another inspection, during which the tobacco was found in a laptop bag.

Mr Nguyen said the cigarettes were being sold for £3 a packet when customers would normally expect to pay £9.50. The packets, which included Fest cigarettes, were believed to be from eastern Europe.

"Mr Randhawa is the licensee and owner of the premises and therefore ultimately responsible. People involved in the illegal tobacco trade are often linked to serious crimes including drugs, terrorism and illegal prostitution," Mr Nguyen added.

Licensing consultant Graham Hopkins, who represented Mr Randhawa at the committee last Wednesday, said his client had carried out a number of changes since being alerted about the counterfeit goods, including the installation of CCTV and safety training to prevent a repeat of the illegal trade, both of which were conditions attached to his licence.

Firm told to stop work on silos

Marie Jarvis, Councillor Steve Jones and Sarah Nicholls, with residents

TWO 30ft silos that tower over people's homes have been built without planning permission in the Black Country.

Residents are furious with cooking oil manufacturer, KTC Edibles, which has been ordered to stop work on the structures by Sandwell Council.

The local authority stepped in following dozens of complaints from people living near the factory on the Tipton and Wednesbury border. Residents said the silos had been built in recent weeks and branded them 'eyesores that must be removed'.

Marie Jarvis, who lives in Sefton Grove backing onto the factory, said: "They are horrendous, they ruin everybody's view. They look awful and it is all we can see from our windows. I just want them taken down."

Sue Lloyd, who also lives in Sefton Grove, added: "They are twice the size of a standard house, they are prominent. They are imposing on the whole cul-de-sac."

KTC Edibles is believed to be planning to build more silos at the site but all work has been brought to a halt following talks with the council.

Sandwell Council said it was working with the firm, the largest manufacturer and distributor of oils and fats in the country, in an attempt to resolve the row.

While work on the silos has stopped, the company has not been instructed to remove them. Bosses could apply for retrospective planning permission, which would mean the council's planning committee deciding whether they can stay.

Firms are top crop as winners of accolades

BLACK Country firms are among more than 100 unveiled by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills as winners of Queen's Awards. Smethwick-based DPD is celebrating after winning a gong for innovation and Matrix Housing Partnership in West Bromwich has won for sustainable development.

Jaguar Land Rover won the same award for reducing the environmental impact of its products and operations. It opened its £500 million plant at the i54, Wolverhampton last year.

Parcels delivery business DPD, which is part of GeoPost UK, employs 1,120 at Roebuck Lane, Smethwick and another 1,411 at its other major site in the West Midlands at Oldbury. Its award marks its development of the Predict service which provides internet shoppers with a dependable one-hour window in which doorstep deliveries are made.

Matrix, which has its headquarters in Birmingham Road, is a not-for-profit co-operative of housing associations providing affordable housing and social care. It completed more than 800 new homes over the last year. The partnership, led by the Accord Group, is one of the most successful in the region.

More than 35 new urban and rural developments have now been completed, many of which have been manufactured at the Accord Group's timber homes factory in Walsall, demonstrating the Group's commitment to offsite, low carbon manufacturing.

Organ concerts come to an end

THE curtain comes down today, Thursday, on this year's season of free lunchtime organ concerts in Sandwell.

Chris Powell will perform the final show at West Bromwich Town Hall on the mighty Forster and Andrews pipe organ. Chris has established himself as one of the UK's premier entertainment organists as well as a truly international ambassador in the field of electronic and theatre organ music.

Regular concert attendees along with new guests will be joined by the Mayor of Sandwell for the finale of what has been another wonderful season of classical and light entertainment on organ and piano.

Doors open at 12.30pm with the free concert starting at 1pm. For further information call 0121 569 8276.

Tividale FC saved from relegation over ground

TIVIDALE Football Club have been saved from relegation after winning an appeal over the state of their ground. But the decision was overturned at Wembley Stadium, meaning the club can remain in the Evo-Stick First Division South.

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Green men to return as road safety fears grow

LITTLE flashing green men are making a return to Smethwick following concerns people were struggling to cross the road safely.

The warning signals are being installed on pedestrian crossings including in Bearwood Road as part of a £2million revamp.

Work is taking place along Bearwood Road and Cape Hill over the coming year after funding for the project was earmarked from Sandwell Council's revenue surplus.

The green man warning lights were removed from crossings several years ago but they are now returning after calls from the community.

Councillor Bob Piper said: "When we asked people about improvements on Bearwood Road last autumn, one of the points that a number of people raised was the difficulty, particularly for the elderly, in getting across the road safely.

"Since the 'green man' was removed from the crossing some years ago, pedestrians were clearly uneasy when crossing without a visible indication in front of them letting them know it was safe to cross.

"The first one is currently being installed on the Bearwood Road crossing near St Mary's Church, and the other crossings will follow."

The council is also working on junction improvement plans for Bearwood Road with preliminary designs still being worked on.

Once completed these will go out for residents to have their says and to be approved by councillors.

VE Day beacon to light up hills

SANDWELL is to mark Victory in Europe Day and commemorate the 70th anniversary of the end of the Second World War in Europe.

The borough is joining a national chain of 100 beacons being lit to mark the day. Sandwell will light a beacon on the Rowley Hills on Friday May 8 at 9.32pm which people will be able to see from miles around.

Then on Sunday May 10 a commemorative service is planned. The borough's mayor Councillor Derek Rowley will join members of the Royal British Legion at the War Memorial in Oldbury Civic Square at 10.30am.

It will use the order of service from the 1945 'Thanksgiving for Victory' service held in Westminster Abbey. For details, call 0121 553 0220.

Advice group in search of helpers

A SERVICE that helps people with rights issues is appealing for volunteers or anyone who needs help to get in touch. Sandwell Advocacy provides independent, confidential and free advice, available on 0121 520 8070.

Ex-Villa boss to take over chambers

New chambers chief, Paul Faulkner

THE former boss of Aston Villa is to take over as head of the region's biggest business organisation.

Paul Faulkner will take over as chief executive of Greater Birmingham Chambers of Commerce when current boss Jerry Blackett leaves on July 3.

Cambridge-educated Mr Faulkner, aged 36, was chief executive at Aston Villa between 2010 and 2014 having previously served in senior management roles at the club since 2006. After leaving Villa he was CEO at Nottingham Forest until February.

He said: "I'm really excited at the prospect of getting started at the chambers and leading the organisation in the years ahead.

"I've long been a passionate advocate of Birmingham and the wider region, and this opportunity with the chambers to be central in helping Greater Birmingham flourish – not least by securing more powers and freedoms from central government, in conjunction with our partners within the LEPs and local authorities – is one that I relish."

Chamber chairman David Waller added: " Paul's skills and knowledge are a great match for the role. His experience of running two major football clubs gave him great relevant experience of running businesses. In particular, Paul's commercial track record is very strong and attractive."

Mr Faulkner is an associate non-executive director at Birmingham Children's Hospital, as well as a trustee of Cure Leukaemia, Town Hall Symphony Hall and the Library of Birmingham Trust. His wife Jayne is a doctor at Birmingham Women's Hospital.

Council injury claim payouts total £2.7m

MORE than £2.7 million was paid out by a council for personal injury claims over accidents on highways in three years, figures reveal.

Cash-strapped Sandwell Council stumped up for the claims at a time when it has been battling ever-tightening budgets.

Deputy leader Steve Eling said the council had its own insurance which helped settle claims. The figures, revealed through a Freedom of Information request, show vast amounts were spent settling claims from 2012 to 2014. In total £2,760,561 was paid out by the authority for incidents classed as 'personal injury claims' during the three-year period.

Councillor Eling said: "We live in a society with more litigation and personal injury claims and it is inevitable local authorities are on the receiving end of them.

"The council is covered by its own insurance of course."

Exact details on the accidents are unclear but the incidents are said to have occurred on roads and pavements in the borough.

Inevitable

"In 2014, the authority received 149 compensation claims for personal injury with a total of £729,567 paid out in compensation and fees.

Total fees including compensation paid out was £729,567.43 over the 12 months.

During the previous year the council faced 197 claims, leading to legal costs and compensation of £1,275,575. In 2012, council bosses had even more claims, 203, but £755,418 was paid out.

It has also emerged that the council has forked out on 'non-injury claims' over the same period. In 2014, 99 claims were made of this kind with £20,118 paid out including compensation. A total of £16,704 was paid out in 2013 from 102 claims and in 2012 the number of non-injury claims was 121 with £20,049 in payments.

The Labour-run authority has to make cuts of £63m by 2017, with funding from central government having dropped by £122m in the six years to 2015/16.

Significant pressures have forced the council to make pay outs over a range of issues including its redundancy scheme.

Hundreds of staff have had to be laid off by the authority amid large cutbacks in grants from central government.

App-y youngsters at Baggies

West Brom player Joleon Lescott and assistant manager Dave Kemp, with youngsters at the Haw-

FIVE Tipton schoolboys quizzed Albion stars and have pitched to Dragons Den TV star Theo Paphitis and former England footballer Graeme Le Saux.

Anoop Kabba, Jordan Randle, Jack Guest, Waleed Mohammed and Gurkanwal Singh from Ace Academy took on the Premier League Enterprise Challenge set by Premier League chief executive Richard Scudamore, which aims to get families involved in football.

Representing West Bromwich Albion's Foundation, the pupils produced a phone app giving fans the chance to vote for their man of the match during games and came up with an entertainment package to occupy families before matches and at half-time.

The five got the chance to question Albion star Joleon Lescott and assistant manager Dave Kemp for 20 minutes at The Hawthorns.

They climbed the first hurdle, open to all 14 to 16 year-olds in Sandwell schools and colleges, then progressed to a further event held at Stoke City FC's home, the Britannia Stadium, where they got through to the final.

The grilling from Paphitis and Le Saux, was being held at Westminster in London on Monday, and success would mean that they earned the chance to pitch their idea to Mr Scudamore.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Viewing tower restoration due

A £125,000 project to restore the rare viewing tower at the 500-year-old Oak House in West Bromwich is to get under way. Major repairs are needed to the crumbling belvedere at the grade II listed Tudor house.

Sandwell Council is currently tendering for the scheme before contractors start next month. Work is needed to repair the tower's timber structure and the exterior wall panels.

During the work, scaffolding will be put up. The structure is believed to be the only remaining timber-framed belvedere in the country.

Budget gym is on way to town

BUDGET gym chain Xercise4Less has announced plans for a branch in Smethwick creating up to 50 jobs.

Former offices in Crystal Drive will be converted to create the new gym, if the council backs plans. The site on Sandwell Industrial Park has been standing empty, bosses said. They said the new branch would need up to 50 full and part time staff.

It is hoped that the gym would attract up to 7,500 members and offer more than 400 pieces of equipment, Darren Pallett said in the planning application.

Escapee burglar caught in city

ESCAPED prisoner Joseph Moss has been caught. Moss, aged 22, has been on the run for two weeks.

The convicted burglar escaped from HMP Featherstone on Thursday April 16 and is serving a 32-month sentence for burglary. He was arrested last Thursday was arrested yesterday in the Birmingham area and taken into custody. A Birmingham man, also 22, was arrested on suspicion of harbouring the prisoner, who is from the Bartley Green area of the city.

Councillor raps it up for return to office

MORE than 2,500 people have tuned in to see a Wolverhampton councillor attempt to rap his way back into office. Councillor Zahid Shah, who represents St Peter's ward, unleashed his rap on Youtube in a bid to attract young voters.

His call-to-vote is based around the Whitmore Reans area that he grew up in, which he says has become 'deranged'. Councillor Shah's 55-second long rap has now garnered 2,597 views and has been liked by 32 viewers.

Question time for Bob

WEST Bromwich Albion legend Bob Taylor is to appear at a bar in the Black Country on May 10. The former Baggies striker will host a question and answer session at Jay's Bar in Graingers Lane, Cradley Heath. Tickets cost £3 and can be ordered by calling Jay's Bar on 01384 834624.

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IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews

Political advice – from a murderer

STILL wondering which way to vote in the election? Seeking wise counsel on where to put your cross come polling day?

Fear not. Moors murderer Ian Brady has entered the debate, and has put his thoughts on paper. Apparently, he believes most professional criminals are Tory voters, he says David Cameron represents "the usual mob-pleasing PR drivel expected from such bovines", and believes David Dimbleby is an "establishment dumpling". Suffice to say, he is not very fond of Ed Miliband either, although it's probably best not to go into his rather offensive thoughts on that matter.

Apparently, Brady hasn't read a newspaper since 1998, and keeps up to date by watching the Middle East television channel Al Jazeera – don't you just reckon they will be thrilled with that endorsement? Still, it's wise to remember all this next time the European Court of Human Rights starts banging on about giving prisoners the vote.

❑❑❑❑❑

A FEW weeks ago, a note from the council contractors landed on the doormat informing us that the road would be resurfaced. Among other things, it boasted how environmentally friendly the new resurfacing process would be. I know we have to take care of the wildlife these days, but was it really necessary to carefully lay the asphalt around a dandelion?

❑❑❑❑❑

THE problem with many of the email scams is that very often it is very hard to tell what is genuine. I received a communication supposedly from B&Q, telling me how it was "the perfect place to choose a new shade of paint, invest in some kitchen cabinets, or simply buy a few plants for the garden". It also told me that if I clicked on the attached link, I might be in with the chance of winning a £500 voucher. However, I think on this occasion, it might not be all it seems. I'm really not convinced that bq@yazmin.homeybottom.com is an official B&Q email address.

❑❑❑❑❑

MORE weirdness from the world of education. Turnham Primary School in south-east London is now insisting that all three-year-olds must now sign a contract guaranteeing that that they will be tolerant of various things, including "race, gender, class, ability, faith, sexual orientation or lifestyle", and that they must "refrain from using transphobic language in the school."

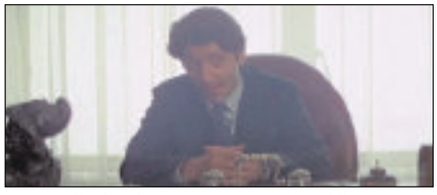
I suppose we should be impressed by the fact that all the children are presumably able to read and write at such a tender age of three, although it does not say what action they take if they breach the agreement. Court proceedings to confiscate their yo-yos, perhaps?

But really, isn't it stretching things a bit far?

Slade perform Them Kinda Monkey's Can't Swing

On the road and on the water in between performances

The boys enjoy themselves with some water for the fans



Tom Conti as the band's manager Robert Seymour

Noddy, Jim and Dave are caught on camera

Don's character Charlie, with one of his foundry colleagues

Flame and fortune

PETE MADELEY takes a look at Slade's short-lived silver screen stardom, 40 years on from their movie's release

IT has been described as 'the Citizen Kane of British pop films' and features one of the world's most successful rock bands performing in a gritty expose of the darker side of the music industry.

It's now 40 years since Slade in Flame hit cinema screens, starring Black Country glam troupe Slade playing fictitious musicians in a made-up band.

At the time they were riding the crest of the wave on the back of a string of number one hits including Cum On Feel The Noize, Skweeze Me, Pleeze Me and Take Me Bak 'Ome. But movie-goers expecting bell-bottomed hi-jinks and Walsall's Noddy Holder screaming 'It's Christmaaaaasssss!' every five minutes were in for a shock.

What they got was an at times bleak view of the music business, complete with unscrupulous agents, dangerous gangster types and a band's rise to stardom followed by inevitable fall from grace.

Fantasy

Sure there's humour – a furious Noddy singing while padlocked inside a coffin on stage is comedy gold – but this was not your average film about a rock band.

It was a million miles away from The Beatles' A Hard Day's Night, the rock star fantasy of the David Essex vehicle Stardust and various glam rockers' bizarre Never Too Young To Rock. According to Slade drummer Don Powell, that was precisely what the band intended.

"We had no interest in making another typical film about a rock band, that had already been done," said Don, who lives with his family in Aarhus in Denmark.

"None of us really knew what we had let ourselves in for. But we ended up with a film that comes across as pretty dark.

"It shows the downside of the music business, all the crooks and the gangsters."

Don returned to Wolverhampton the city of his birth as guest of honour at a Slade convention at the Robin 2 club in Bilston, organised to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the iconic movie. Filmed over the course of six weeks at locations across the UK, Slade in Flame follows the fortunes of a fictitious band as they hit the road to the big time at the tail end of the swinging 60s.

Slade at the Robin in 2013, from left, John Berry, Dave Hill, Don Powell and Mal Nulty

In the film members from two rival bands join up to form Flame, giving them the same line up as the real-life Slade – Noddy Holder, Don Powell, Dave Hill and Jim Lea.

From then on it's a telling tale of a young band marketed and exploited to the point where they eventually tire of the whole business and pack it all in.

The idea for a film was hatched by Slade manager Chris Chandler, who saw it as the next logical step in the band's successful career.

It was written by Andrew Birkin – with more than a little guidance from the band themselves. "The first story Andrew brought to us wasn't really what we wanted," said Don.

"So we took him and Richard Loncraine (director) on tour with us to the States for a few weeks. If you want to know what life in a band is like, go out on tour!

"They came to all the gigs and travelled with us – really got to know us as people. There's a lot of spare time and we would tell stories about daft things that had happened to us and other bands.

"Andrew had a tape recorder with him all the time. Although the film is fictional a lot of what you see in there actually happened in real life, although not necessarily to us."

The early scenes of two young bands plying their trade around bingo halls and weddings certainly echo the pre-Slade band The 'N Betweens. And Don's character Charlie is shown grafting in a factory – a nod to his early real-life job as a foundry worker in Willenhall.

The aforementioned Noddy-in-a-coffin scene reflects the antics of Screaming Lord Sutch, who was once trapped inside a coffin on stage while he performed with his band The Savages. But there are times when the film departs wildly from reality.

In one memorable scene Jim Lea sees Noddy tending to his pigeons. "Come in," invites Noddy, covered from head-to-toe in pigeon muck. "They're vegetarians."

"To this day I'm sure Noddy has never done anything like that," chuckled Don. "The thought of Noddy training pigeons! I think Andrew pulled that one out of the sky."

Respected actors were also brought onto the cast, including Alan Lake who played the appropriately named Jack Daniels and Tom Conti as the band's manager Robert Seymour.

Fresh from a stint at Her Majesty's pleasure, Lake was fired during his first day on set after enjoying a lengthy liquid lunch – only to be reinstated when his wife Diana Dors agreed to police his sobriety for the remainder of filming.

Don admits his nerves began to jangle prior to filming, his concerns exacerbated by a tragic car accident he was involved in that killed his fiancée Angela Morris and left him suffering severe short-term memory loss.

He said: "I had amnesia after the car crash and thought: 'There's no way I'm going to be able to learn my lines'.

"But of course I didn't have to learn the whole film in one go. I would learn what I needed to before I went on set, so it wasn't as hard as I thought. I actually found it was great mental exercise for me to learn things. I spent a lot of my spare time on set watching how things are done."

The film also spawned a best selling book by John Pidgeon and a soundtrack which sold 170,000 copies before the film was even released. "Slade has always been about the music first and foremost," said Don. "We definitely weren't actors.

"The music was a central part of the film, but after it had premiered it wasn't the music that most people were talking about." Don is alluding to the somewhat mixed response Slade in Flame garnered from fans and critics alike. Some of the reviews were positive – with the BBC's Barry Norman praising it for having 'real grit' and 'real integrity' – while others suggested fans were better off just listening to the soundtrack.

Don said that sections of the band's fanbase struggled to come to terms with the harsh realities of the music business depicted in the film. There's also an argument that the film may have ended up damaging Slade's career. They never scored another number one hit single in the UK after its release, having had six between 1971 and 1973.

"Part of the problem was that people couldn't get their heads around the fact that we were playing characters, not ourselves," Don muses. "But I'm glad we did it and I'm proud of the film."

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27 wasted minutes at meeting

ON Tuesday I had the misfortune to waste 27 minutes of my day by attending Sandwell full council meeting in Oldbury.

The 13-point agenda was rushed through with only one question asked in the chamber in a meeting that was clearly pre-arranged at Monday night's meeting of the 70 Labour councillors.

As I sat in the visitors' gallery the door to the 'councillors only' room kept swinging open, where it was clear to see them scoffing away at their free meal, paid for by the electorate, whilst earlier in the day I was talking to a volunteer from Tipton's Food Bank, who told me that the council is refusing to fix an electrical problem at the shop as there is no money available.

The meeting began, chaired by Mayor Rowley, who was keen to describe all the charity events he has attended over the past few months. Who watches the watchers I ask and when a council has such a majority, 70 out of 72, there appears to be no scrutiny and no-one to question their actions.

R KEELING
Wednesbury

Nowhere to put my X in vote

HAVING written before about the parties available at the General Election, I am still bemused as to where to put my X.

Should I help reinstate a man that whilst introducing the cruel and sickening bedroom tax gave his celebrity chums tax breaks in their mansions.

Or help appoint a man who was part of the team that nearly bankrupted the nation, deliberately opened our border gates and has about as much charisma as a Warburtons loaf.

Or should I choose the man who made the one and only cast iron pledge on tuition fees only to break it as soon as he sat on a chair of power. I could of course choose a man who wants us to put two fingers up to Europe, only to secretly admit we need them just as much as they need us. With every news bulletin telling me that there has never ever been more choice I disagree, I can't see anyone I could choose…I don't think any of us really have a choice.

S HARRISON
West Bromwich

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST
Sandwell Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
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Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

EMAIL
sandwell.chronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Sorry doesn't seem to be hardest word

A FEW years ago I had published in this paper a letter of apology from Worcs Acute NHS for their failings in care afforded a family member. The following year I had another letter published again with an apology for failings in care afforded to another family member from this same trust...the trust stated they were 'sorry'.

Following news that elderly patients received failings in care at Redditch Hospital again this trust apologised to families. Now news has filtered out that a major incident doctor was called in by ambulance staff to treat patients after they found people were having to be treated in corridors at an A&E department once more from this trust, again Worcs Acute NHS apologised.

So it's okay then as long as the powers that be keep on saying sorry. How many mistakes and failings does it take before it becomes incompetence? The cases are spread across at least three hospitals so it can't be just poor staff.

I firmly believe that if leadership is weak then your output will be as well, but heads never roll in the NHS so I leave you with this dilemma the next time you hear or read of a hospital trust having to apologise for its failings, ask is it Worcs Acute NHS again, they are pretty good at saying sorry, they've had a lot of practice.

S HARRISON
West Bromwich

Blair may be Ed's undoing

LIKE a bad penny Tony Blair appears on the Labour campaign trail; will he put the kiss of death on Ed's ambition of becoming the next Prime Minister?

This is a man responsible for taking this country into a needless prolonged conflict in Afghanistan where hundreds of our young men and women lost their lives and many others were crippled and disabled.

Who can believe anything this person tells us after what was told of Saddam Hussein's chemical weapons to get the country involved in another unnecessary war in Iraq.

Now he has the temerity to say he knows better than us and we should not be allowed a vote on Europe. If we come out of Europe it would put paid to his ambition of becoming President of Europe!

J KEAY
Wednesbury

Wait on gates at alleyway

I WAS interested to see your article about Sandwell Council gating off Great Barr alleyways.

My parents also live next to an gated alleyway in West Bromwich. However the gates have been broken for over eight months and despite numerous calls to the council, the involvement of a local councillor and police, the gates remain broken.

The council has informed my parents they will not pay for any further maintenance or repairs. I wonder if the council will refuse to repair the gates in Great Barr!

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Jail for pair of burglars after string of break-ins

TWO burglars who ransacked homes during a string of break-ins across the Black Country and Birmingham, have been jailed for a total of more than eight years.

Abid Khan and Daniel Johnson hired a car which they used for their escape after raids in the Black Country and Birmingham. They also tried to get rid of thousands of pounds worth of stolen jewellery by throwing it into a garden during a police chase.

Johnson, aged 27, and Khan, 24, broke into a house in Gorsebrook Road, Whitmore Reans, Wolverhampton on April 8, 2013, but fled with just costume jewellery when people from a neighbouring property went to investigate.

The next day, they at a house in Dunstall Hill. Johnson broke in while Khan was lookout. He ransacked the house, stealing games consoles, expensive watches and designer sunglasses. When the family returned home, Khan sent warning texts to Johnson.

Further crimes were reported on April 28 in Birmingham, where they twice tried to get into homes unsuccessfully in Handsworth. In the second raid, in Lyndon Close, the homeowners were inside and called police in a panic, which led to officers arriving.

Khan was arrested from his home, on Robert Road, Handsworth, the following day and the white Seat was seized from outside the address. Johnson's arrest followed in July 2014, when he was identified as Khan's accomplice in the earlier crimes. He was detained in Handsworth after being connected to a burglary in Birmingham New Road, Dudley, where jewellery had been stolen.

Even after he was detained Johnson tried to get away, fleeing from hospital where he was being treated for a dog bite received upon arrest. Johnson eventually admitted his crimes and pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit burglary, burglary with intent to steal, driving whilst disqualified, dangerous driving, and escaping from lawful custody. Sarah Robinson, aged 26, of Windsor Street South, Nechells admitted aiding and abetting an escape from lawful custody for her part in collecting Johnson as he made his getaway.

Khan – three years and seven months

Johnson – four years, 10 months

The two men appeared before Birmingham Crown Court where they were sentenced for a conspiracy to commit burglary, having pleaded guilty at an earlier hearing. Johnson was sentenced to four years and 10 months in prison while Khan received a three-year-and-seven-months custodial sentence.

Robinson was sentenced to six months imprisonment, suspended for 18 months, last October.

Rescuer to help after Nepal disaster

FIREFIGHTERS and paramedics from the West Midlands have gone to Nepal to help in the rescue operation after the devastating earthquake.

Nine West Midlands Fire Service firefighters have been deployed there, as well as three West Midlands Ambulance Service staff. Paramedic Simon Greenfield from Oldbury was due to fly out on Monday with Humanity First Medical, which provides medical teams to disaster zones.

Medical incident officer Dr Malcolm Russell, based as an emergency doctor in Herefordshire, and Stoke-based paramedic Steve Watkins have also flown to Nepal as part of the rescue effort.

West Midlands Ambulance Service chief executive Anthony Marsh said: "Our good wishes go with all three of them as they go into what will undoubtedly be a horrific scene.

"They will, as part of the relief effort, be able to provide invaluable assistance to local communities in the stricken areas. As a trust we are pleased to be able to release these staff, who have specialist training, to be part of these organised humanitarian response teams."

Eight West Midlands Fire Service firefighters have flown out as part of the UK's International Search and Rescue (ISAR) mission, while the ninth is supporting a non-government organisation, also in a search and rescue capacity. WMFS is co-ordinating the UK's ISAR response on behalf of the Department for International Development (DFID).

This will involve co-ordinating the movements of nearly 70 personnel deployed as part of the UK response and providing vital welfare support for them and their families.The West Midlands contingent have taken heavy rescue equipment and will lead the coordination of the UK response on the ground, including vital communications, transport and IT support.

Simon Greenfield, a hazardous area response team paramedic

Investors are closing in for Baggies deal

FOREIGN investors are thought to be close to making an offer for West Bromwich Albion, with two overseas parties showing a strong interest in the club, according to officials.

Interest in the club in beginning to hot up after chairman Jeremy Peace set a mid-summer deadline on any deal when he put it up for sale for £200 million.

He said he does not want negotiations to interfere with planning for next season.

Albion said two overseas parties had shown strong interest in taking over the club and that the end of May would be the 'critical' point if there is to be a takeover.

Other groups are also believed to be monitoring events from afar before deciding whether to enter the battle for the club.

Club spokesman Martin Swain said: "There are a couple of interested parties and that process is continuing.

"We believe there are still others in the background who have not made quite as serious a play yet.

"The end of May is the critical moment. We will know a lot more then."

Groups from America and the Far East have made contact about potentially taking over the club but the chairman is ready to walk away from any deal if it is not completed by the start of pre-season training in July.

Warning on buying tickets to festivals

FESTIVAL-GOERS are being warned to avoid buying tickets from unofficial sources as trading standards officers launch a crackdown on fakes.

Staffordshire County Council experts have issued the advice as tickets go on sale for the V Festival at Weston Park. Anyone who suspects fakes should call helpline 01785 330356.

Youngsters learn all about Vaisakhi values

CHILDREN have taken part in activities to learn more about the annual festival of Vaisakhi.

The youngsters at Smethwick Enterprise participated in activities to learn more about the celebration, which is especially important to the Sikh community.

The day is also observed as the thanksgiving day by farmers, who thank God for the abundant harvest and pray for their future prosperity.

Millions of people in the UK and around the world celebrated the festival of Vaisakhi on Tuesday, April 14.

The Midland Langar Seva Society presented Vaisakhi in the Square recently in Victoria Square, Birmingham. Sikh charity MLSS came together with Birmingham City Council to host the fun, family-oriented event aiming to teach people why Sikhs celebrate Vaisakhi.

Parents and children from the stay and play group celebrate Vasaikhi

Martial

The day included henna art, turban tying, children's face-painting, food and drink, and representatives of organisations including Respect Fitness, Charkidala Turban Academy and Sikh martial Arts club Lions MMA.

After Saturday April 18's proceedings, the Council of Sikh Gurdwaras organised two nagar kirtans (holy street processions) and a community celebration in Handsworth Park from 11am onwards on Sunday.

Congregations from Gurdwaras throughout Birmingham and Sandwell, in line with Sikh customs, enjoyed free communal meals. This 'open kitchen' community meal – to which anyone is invited – is called a langar. Every year, people from diverse communities join in the festivities at the park and share a meal with members of the Sikh community.

Amandeep Kaur and daughter Prabhnoor with hands painter Manjit Kaur

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No logic over lack of nurse training

DEVOLUTION of power, so it isn't concentrated all in one place, seems to be high on the politicians' agenda, but is it too much to ask for a little joined-up thinking?

Take the NHS, for example.

On a visit to Wolverhampton the shadow health secretary Andy Burnham is as much at a loss as anyone else to explain the logic of not funding more training places for nurses, while hospital trusts are so desperate for staff they go to places like Greece and Italy to find them. Mr Burnham says he'll sort this out if he gets into the Department of Health in May.

Whether Labour's so-called 'mansion tax' and a promise to pump billions more into the NHS will solve it is another matter entirely.

Deny

It makes no sense to deny the opportunity of a career in nursing to a young person for want of funding, only for another arm of the NHS to then use public money to bring someone in from overseas. That's absolutely no criticism of the foreign nurses.

At the moment they're falling over themselves to promise devolution to the English regions – something that might be a necessary sweetener if we are sold short in order to give Scotland what it wanted in exchange for not breaking up the United Kingdom.

Andy Burnham – nurse shortage

One of the possible power handovers from Whitehall to the West Midlands could be around the issue of skills. There's an argument that under the coalition the oversight of education was concentrated too much in London. Is it going to be any better handing over skills to local areas without the rest of education?

The Black Country Chamber of Commerce was less than impressed by Labour's planned crackdown on employing migrant workers on low pay.

Ninder Johal thinks the party is using 'anti-employer' rhetoric while failing to tackle what he considers to be a bigger issue, namely that education isn't up to scratch. The chamber says 'our schools, colleges and universities continue to produce young people who are unemployable'. Ed Miliband is adamant that good employers have nothing to fear.

George Osborne – same policies

But it does expose a couple of holes in Labour's 'guarantee' of an apprenticeship for every young person who makes the grade. Firstly, how do you guarantee a job when it requires employers to create the apprenticeship?

Secondly, what do you do about the ones who don't make the grade? Mr Miliband says Labour will help those who don't make the grade too. So that's all right then.

Thousands of jobs, hundreds of thousands of apprenticeships and hundreds of thousands of people getting the right to buy their homes; the Tory economic plan for the West Midlands is stat-tastic.

Chancellor George Osborne's announcement in the West Midlands would have been impressive, were it not essentially the same policies we've been hearing for the past weeks.

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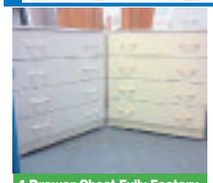

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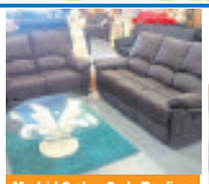

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Mods, rockers and old time classics

Young mods' self-portrait, in Oak Road, from 1985

Another self-portrait exhibition entry of Sandwell youths

Pub show 'Would Jubilee've It?', from around 1975 to 1980

MODS, rockers and old time classics – these nostalgic photos are among hundreds of images offering an insight into life in Sandwell during the 1970s, 80s and early 90s.

The photos have been unearthed from the basement of West Bromwich Town Hall and now take price of place in a new exhibition in the town.

The 'Unseen Sandwell' exhibition is showcasing hundreds of images taken by community group Jubilee Arts during a 20-year period of 1974 to 1994.

Many of the photographs are of the group's artistic activities while others capture social change across the borough. The project is the brainchild of former Jubilee Arts' member Brendan Jackson who has worked with Sandwell Community Archives Service over the last four years to get the scheme off the ground.

From the 20,000 images which formed the Jubilee Arts Archive, it was a forerunner to the 'selfie' which inspired the whole project. Taken in Oak Road, West Bromwich, in 1985, the image shows four young lads with a Small Faces album.

Mr Jackson said: "I love this picture. It was taken at a community festival event. A space for self-portraits was made by dragging a large piece of chipboard around and propping it up, setting up a camera on a tripod with an air release rubber bulb cable release attaché, then inviting people to make a picture of themselves.

"It was the second coming of the Mods and one of the lads insisted on going back home to get their favourite Small Faces LP from 1967, before being photographed."

Self-portrait exhibitions were one of the many activities Jubilee Arts, formed in 1974, organised across Sandwell.

The photos are on display at Sandwell College's Central Sixth campus until May 27.

The exhibition is open from Monday to Friday between 10am and 4pm. Admission is free.

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Canalside creative village bid is on hold

A £9 MILLION project for a canalside creative village in Smethwick has been put on hold after vital funding was withdrawn.

A fresh bid will now have to be made for millions of pounds of funding for new homes and shops in Rolfe Street. It has left the developer behind the ambitious project which had been due to get under way in months, in limbo.

By Heather Large

Complex Development Projects had secured £9m from central government and the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

But ERDF 'unapproved' the application for around £4m due to fears it was overspending.

The developer was told it could resubmit the bid during the next round of funding. But Ian Harrabin, director at Complex Developments, said it was not known when this process would begin and said work would not be able to start without the cash in place.

"The ERDF funding was de-approved due to projected over-commitment within the programme, with the suggestion that this was moved to the new programme. It will need to go through the approval process again and can only do so when DCLG ask for proposals. They haven't done so yet," he said.

Sandwell's finance boss Steve Eling said he was 'very disappointed' by the news. This is annoying. Work was all ready to start and now we are left waiting and not knowing what is going to happen. It's very annoying, I can't believe this happened."

The project will include the construction of new commercial buildings as well as improved pedestrian links between the railway station and Smethwick High Street.

There will also be a series of works to improve the canal which leaders hope will attract businesses and people back into the area.

Gotcha! Bird-lover snaps shy blue tit

Blue Tit at RSPB Sandwell – the photograph taken by amateur snapper Stuart Cattell, from Willenhall

THE blue tit is renowned as a shy and unphotogenic bird, but on this occasion amateur photographer Stuart Cattell was able to capture the blue and yellow bird as it scavenged among the trees looking for food.

Mr Cattell was visiting the RSPB Sandwell Valley nature reserve with his friend Pete Burke last Tuesday, and was busy taking pictures of birds when he noticed the elusive critter flying across a path.

He said: "He didn't stop there long and I was lucky to get that photo of him. The blue tits are really small and they are very shy. He was obviously looking for some food."

He added the pair were visiting to take pictures in the bird hide, but it was closed when they arrived as they had not realised the reserve had changed its opening times.

Instead, they had taken their photos along a pathway through the reserve, which included snaps of a heron, song thrush and a tufted duck.

Mr Cattell, who lives in New Invention, Willenhall, said he had been taking photos for around 20 years and enjoyed nature and watching birds.

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Shelters in place as town bus station takes shape

Workers are seen on site at the new bus station being built in Cradley Heath, as part of a £1.9 million overhaul

WORK is gathering pace on a major £1.9 million overhaul of a Black Country bus station as shelters start to be installed at the site.

A sweeping roof showcasing the modern look for the new Cradley Heath station has now been created on the shelters.

They are being constructed in a horseshoe-style design around the rear of the site in Forge Lane, next to the town's train station.

Construction workers are on-site beginning to landscape the layout for the route for buses accessing the station.

Pathways and pavements are gradually being put into place in the scheme by Centro, the public transport co-ordinator, across the West Midlands.

Construction work is due to be completed later this year.

Temporary bus stops have been erected in the town while work is taking place.

Two stops are set up in Forge Lane, with another in Lower High Street to cope with the bus services re-directed from the station. New passenger information and improved waiting areas will be created during the transformation of the interchange.

The work is being paid for through the Better Bus Area Fund, a £10 million pot to improve public transport in Brierley Hill, around Merry Hill shopping centre and Cradley Heath.

Centro chairman, John McNicholas, said: "Once completed, the new interchange will offer the world-class public transport facility our passengers deserve and have come to expect."

The new interchange will consist of six bus stands, four within the main building and two on a newly-constructed island stand.

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Life's in full bloom

Embracing a new-found confidence, keen gardener Shirley says sharing smiles is now so totally natural

SHE laughs easily, smiles a lot and loves company, with this 70-something-year-old enjoying a fresh confidence in her day-to-day living.

Fun-loving Shirley Foster, a passionate gardener and keen modern sequence dancer can't wait for some sunshine and watch her collection of blooms spring into life.

"I love my collection of poppies. They look stunning with their large colourful flower heads and gardening is a real therapy," she says.

Admitting she "is very privileged to be so fit", Shirley walks wherever she can – she doesn't drive – and for the first time in years is living life with spontaneity she has not known for years. Not that she has ever failed to embraced the chance to wring every last drop of living out of live, but troublesome teeth and ill-fitting dentures were for ever eroding confidence.

Her problems began when she was at school and a life dogged with dental issues followed.

"My two front teeth went bad and had to have crowns fitted on posts. It was the days of the school dentist and I had to go – everyone dreaded it. I had never been in so much pain with the treatment.

"I religiously attended the dentists every six months to try and keep out of trouble, but as the years went by I seemed to pick up more problems and gradually started to lose my teeth with one abscess after another.

"For 30 years or more, I've had a partial top plate, but it kept breaking. The bottom plate was worse as it seemed to have a mind of its own."

Refusing to be beaten by her ill-fitting dentures, Shirley, a former employee at Wolverhampton's New Cross Hospital, carried an essential denture rescue package wherever she went.

Free consultation

"I'd go nowhere without a tube of fixative in my handbag – no matter what I was doing," she recalls.

"I was always putting my hand in front of my mouth and raising a finger to my top denture to make sure it was in place. Unable to do anything more for me, my dentist referred me to see someone in Birmingham but it was too far for me to travel from Wednesbury," she adds.

It was then Shirley discovered the Denture Clinic after reading an article in her local free paper.

Hoping for a solution, she booked a free consultation. Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS(Eng) GDC108353, principal at the Denture Clinic, says: "She came to our Wolverhampton clinic and it was clear she had stabilisation problems with her dentures. A guaranteed solution for her bottom prescription was for over-dentures to be secured by a couple of implants. We made a high quality top denture and the combined effect of using both therapies is excellent. Not only do Shirley's teeth look great, they are also functional."

Adds Shirley: "It's lovely to have the freedom now of not having to worry about whether my teeth would pop out if I coughed or sneezed. I love to talk to people, but now I can smile as well.

"I feel confident that my teeth are secure, my bottom denture being firmly on the implant 'press studs'."

In recent years Shirley has found love second time around. "I lost my long-term partner a few years ago, but now I have a very special friend. I met him at a tea dance. Ironically, he'd just been to his dentists and heard the music and decided to pop in. I'm very privileged and my daughter helps keep my outlook young especially when I'm shopping for clothes," adds Shirley.

"I can't fault the treatment I received and I'm very pleased with my teeth. Steven was lovely and so were all the staff at the Denture Clinic and Jon Pugh's practice in Wolverhampton where the implants were fitted."

• Jon Pugh BDS MSc (Implant Dentistry) GDC 62663, is principal of Total Implant Solutions in Tettenhall Road, Wolverhampton.

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Hero Pc feared for his life as he tried to stop driver

A POLICE officer thought he was going to be killed as he tried to stop a banned driver stealing fuel from a petrol station, a judge heard.

Pc Christopher Howell was clinging to a stolen Citroen C4 as it sped off the Co-op forecourt in Dudley Port, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard. But he was forced to throw himself clear after realising he would be struck by a parked vehicle, said Mr David Iles, prosecuting.

"The officer could see he would be knocked from the Citroen and so broke free," said Mr Illes.

Pc Howell was taken to hospital for cuts and bruises and admitted: 'I feared for my life,' the court heard. He had been on patrol when spotting the petrol pump was feeding fuel through a rear window of the Citroen into a large container. Driver Craig Williams, of Colbourne Road, Tipton, saw him coming and sped off abandoning his accomplice who was left holding the fuel pump. Mr Iles explained: "The car left with wheels spinning and the officer hanging on." The £2,000 Citroen was on false registration plates and had been stolen by 40-year-old Williams from Great Bridge Cars in Great Bridge Street on September 2.

Mr Iles said of the car theft: "He asked to look under the bonnet while the engine was running, leapt in and sped off." Williams stole two other cars from MJC Motors in Queens Road, Smethwick and Cars and Commercial at Kingswinford, on September 18 and 30 respectively. They were sold to fund his drug habit but he kept the Citroen and used it to escape after stealing a £70 drill from B&Q at Mucklow Hill, Halesowen on September 8.

Williams pleaded guilty to assaulting a police officer, theft, dangerous driving and driving while disqualified and was jailed for two years nine months. He also received a three-year driving ban.

Ceremony to honour those who help out

AN AWARDS ceremony will be held for volunteers who give up their spare time in Sandwell.

Volunteer Centre Sandwell will be holding their fifth biannual Sandwell Volunteer Awards at West Bromwich Town Hall on June 5. Organisers say the awards will recognise the incredible transformation that volunteers have made to people, places and communities across the borough.

Awards are given in eight categories, including community organisation, corporate, environment, health and social care, young volunteer, trustee volunteer, volunteer co-ordinator and long service volunteer.

Jean Taylor, CEO of Volunteer Centre Sandwell, said: "Volunteering works both ways – the benefit it provides to the community and and the benefit the volunteers receive from the experience themselves."

The event will coincide with National Volunteers Week which starts on June 1.

A capital marathon for Blind Dave

Blind Dave Heeley at the finish line of the London Marathon with his guides Rosemary Rhodes and Tony Ellis

FUNDRAISER Dave Heeley and the mother of inspirational teenager Stephen Sutton, from Burntwood, near Walsall, were among 38,000 people who completed the London Marathon.

The turnout of runners was the biggest in the event's 35-year history.

Blind Dave embarked on the trek just weeks after finishing the punishing Marathon Des Sables across the Sahara desert.

Dave, who was with guides Rosemary Rhodes and Tony Ellis, finished the marathon after sending tweets from the 26.2 mile route on his way to the finish line on The Mall on Sunday afternoon.

The father-of-three, who is a devoted Baggies fan, has already helped raise almost £26,000 for The Albion Foundation which supports community projects including disability sport.

Jane Sutton had been in training aiming to continue her son Stephen's legacy – and finished in a time of six hours, three minutes and 19 seconds Her fundraising total is almost £10,000 – a target she set in memory of Stephen's original target for the Teenage Cancer Trust.

She told Facebook followers: "I'm quite happy with this as I did exactly what I set out to do which was keep my promise, soak up the atmosphere, cross the finish line with a smile on my face with my thumbs up for Stephen."

World record holder Paula Radcliffe, 41, completed her final competitive marathon at the event. The Beckham family were among an estimated 750,000 spectators who lined the streets of the capital.

Hollywood star joy for Jeff Lynne

ELO legend Jeff Lynne said he was thrilled to be honoured with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

The 67-year-old Brummie has already had a star presented in his home city to mark his musical achievements.

Now he has been given the 2,548th star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in Los Angeles

Lynne, who hails from Shard End, Birmingham, was joined at the ceremony by fellow Travelling Wilburys bandmate Tom Petty and the Eagles' Joe Walsh.

The star was unveiled in front of the iconic Capitol Records Building on Hollywood Boulevard.

Lynne, who now lives in Beverly Hills, said: "I think it's marvellous. I never would have imagined this chap from Birmingham, England, would have his name on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

"I know it's a real populist thing and all that stuff, and it's not usually my style, but you can't turn that down. I am thrilled."

The musician was given a place on Birmingham's Broad Street Walk of Stars last year.

He returned to his home city to receive the honour and headlined a Hyde Park show performing hits Mr Blue Sky, Wild West Hero and Xanadu with Olivia Newton-John.

Police officer's body is discovered at home

THE body of a police officer has been discovered at a home in Great Barr.

Police say they are investigating but the death is not being treated as suspicious. The police officer, who has not yet been named, was off duty at the time. Officers were called to an address in Courtenay Road near the James Watt Campus of Birmingham Metropolitan College last Thursday.

West Midlands Police said that the coroner had been informed.

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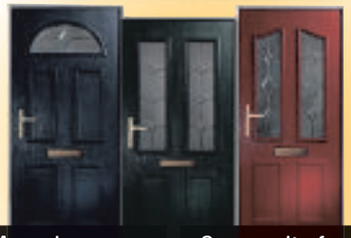

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Boating season launch with event on the cut

DOZENS of canal boats descended on Tipton for a community day and real ale festival.

It was organised by Friends of Tipton Cut who welcomed visitors to the John the Lock moorings and the Fountain Inn.

The event heralded the start of this year's boating season allowing owners to catch up with friends and celebrate Tipton's canal heritage.

At the pub there was an array of musical entertainment to keep visitors entertained.

Among the 50 boats at the event was Sparks used as a flower stall by cruiser Lindsay Andrews.

James Ward who makes woodwork including wooden pens also attended on his boat Lois Jane.

The friends group has adopted a stretch of canal in Tipton through the Canal and River Trust's Community Adoption Scheme.

Musicians

Ann Johnson, founder member of the organisation, said: " The weekend was a great success with around 50 boats in attendance.

"The weekend's entertainment was held in The Fountain Inn with 20 local musicians performing, and a real ale festival.

"This was the second Easter event but it has been very well supported by the boating community and the 2016 Easter event will be going ahead.

"Friends of Tipton Cut is a small group of volunteers, all of whom are canal enthusiasts. We have adopted a stretch of canal in Tipton from Canal & River Trust, from Watery Lane Bridge near Caggy's Boatyard through to Tipton Green Bridge.

"We meet on a regular basis to carry out a variety of tasks including vegetation management, clearing litter and dumped rubbish, of which sadly there is a lot, towpath maintenance, and lock and bridge painting."

The friends group is on the lookout for new members to swell its ranks.

Ms Johnson said: "We are always keen to welcome new volunteers, so if anyone would like to spend a few hours a month working in the fresh air please get in touch."

For further information email ann.onthecut@virginmedia.com

Cheers – organiser Ann Johnson

Volunteer Rob Manning on 'Scorpio'

The canal boat gathering in Tipton

James Ward on The Pen Maker's Boat

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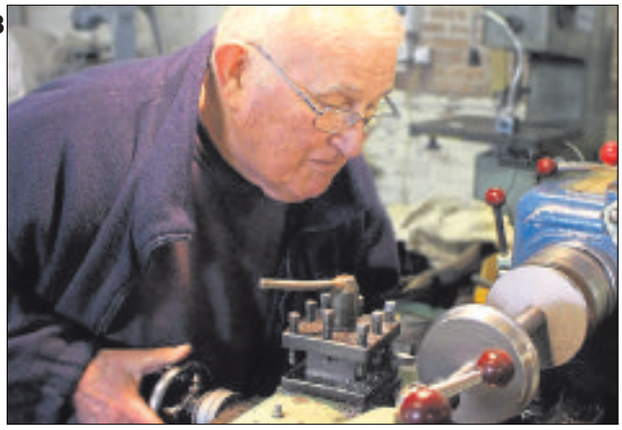

Hard at work – Charles Clowes using a lathe

Concreting the base for the new tunnel

McAuliffe Group digging the cutting for the new tunnel

Mike Amith on the GNR Atlantis

Miniature railway hobby is still on the right track

Richard Smith and the late Ron Haddock laying track

Members building the signal box

FOR more than 30 years the Wolverhampton & District Model Engineering Society has been bringing together people interested in stationary engines, traction engines, aircraft, powered boats and most of all miniature railways.

It all began when Jack Acton placed a newspaper advert and the society was formed with monthly meetings.

For 10 years they only had a portable track which they set up at country fetes and the like, but then they had the chance to build a permanent miniature railway at Baggeridge Country Park, now open every Sunday and Bank Holiday during the summer months.

MEMORY LANE

By Alec Brew

Shortly after opening, an adventure playground was built alongside the railway, ideal for a family day out. The society is now extending the track with phase one including a new loop and tunnel

The society still takes a portable track to a few events each year, and on Sunday, May 10 they will be laying a line through Tettenhall Station to commemorate the 90th anniversary since the line through Tettenhall was opened.

It will be the first time people will be able to ride a train through Tettenhall station since the line closed 50 years ago.

Mike Smith driving the GNR Atlantic on raised track for smaller engines

40 years of dedicated service at City Hospital

FOR more than 40 years, Geraldine Cotton has been working at City Hospital, ensuring patient care is delivered timely and smoothly, making significant differences to the lives of many people.

Senior medical secretary for Trauma and Orthopaedics at City Hospital, Birmingham, Geraldine, aged 56, who hails from Rowley Regis, explained: "After graduating from high school, I knew that I wanted to become a secretary.

"I also wanted to work for a caring and professional organisation and that was why I decided to work for the NHS.

"I started as a trainee in 1974. I worked in various departments, including the supplies division on Hagley Road, West Midlands Ambulance Service, and the 'Archway of Tears' building at City Hospital.

Excellent

"I was appointed a medical secretary in 1979 at City Hospital and developed a wealth of experience in medical terminology.

"Now, I am a senior medical secretary and I manage medical secretaries in Trauma and Orthopaedics at Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust – all of whom are excellent medical secretaries, who work together as a team to provide a quality caring service to our patients.

"Since I have the opportunity to work as a medical secretary and manage others, I can see both sides of the coin and find myself relating to both roles, which helps me get work done with good outcomes.

"I enjoy my role as a medical secretary. I have good relationships with doctors, consultants, staff and patients. I find the job rewarding when patients thank me for helping solve their problems."

Looking back at her career journey, Geraldine has developed a deep loyalty to the trust.

She always aims to work really hard on the Trust's behalf and prides herself on high standards.

She strives to provide an excellent and caring service to all of the stakeholders.

Geraldine is not afraid of challenges.

She said: "I enjoy the diversity of my work.

"Since my job involves using technology to assist consultants and patients, I am not afraid to adapt to new changes to ensure I can deliver the best outcome."

Geraldine's own hero is the actor Morgan Freeman, she explained: "He is such an inspirational figure because he portrays a genuine and caring character as well as positive energy, which motivates me to keep progressing and enjoying my life."

In her spare time, Geraldine enjoys reading and listening to music.

She sometimes goes to a soul night and does Zumba to keep her mind and body active.

NHS HEROES

ONCE again we focus some of our time on the quiet heroes of the NHS, from a wide variety of backgrounds doing a wide variety of jobs.

Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust is one of the Black Country's largest NHS organisations.

It employs 7,500 people, many of whom live locally.

Last year, the trust provides care from 150 locations.

This week we highlight: GERALDINE COTTON Senior Medical Secretary at City Hospital Birmingham

Founders of bakery give club address

Pelsall 'E' TG

MEMBERS were given a warm welcome to Tutbury Castle on March 30 from historian and curator Lesley Smith. A short history of the castle and the local area was enjoyed in the grounds followed by lunch of soup and a roll.

Lesley then gave a fascinating talk in the Great Hall on local and castle history using various artefacts from the past.

As usual the April meeting opened with formal matters, including the financial statement by treasurer Lynne Bradin.

Reminders were given regarding forthcoming events, such as the annual quiz night on May 15 at Pelsall Community Centre at 7.30pm. The Lunch Club on the May 19 is at Farmer Johns, Aldridge Road, Sutton Coldfield.

Speaker was Eugene Schellenberg who, with his wife Margaret, founded the Ifakara Bakery Project in Tanzania. He gave an enthusiastic and interesting illustrated talk on the project which began in 2001 and is now a successful self-financing bakery business.

They still raise financial support for the area to help children with learning disabilities, hospital patients and malnourished children.

The competition for an attractive cushion was won by Dorothy Evans. Diane Jackson won the raffle.

The birthday dinner is in the William Morris Suite at the Beverley Hotel, Lichfield Road, Walsall, on May 21 with entertainment by Pelsall Ladies Choir.

Museum day out rekindles memories

Trying out the street games at the museum

The 1930s house brought back memories

Highgate Ladies Probus Club

THE club enjoyed a lovely day out to the Black Country Museum. A 1930s flat complete with tiled grate and three-piece Moquette suit brought back memories for some members.

One lady could remember her mother using 'Snowfire' face cream which was on display in the old chemist shop. Street games like top and whip, skipping, and rolling hoops were available for visitors to try. How, all wondered, did their mothers and grandmothers cook such wonderful meals with the limited kitchens of those times?

Highgate Ladies Probus Club meets on the second Monday of each month at Broadway United Reform Church, Gillity Avenue. Each month brings a different speaker for a 10.15am start, and all visitors are very welcome.

Thinking caps on for quiz

Wordsley 'M' TG

THE April meeting was opened by chairman for the day Liz Hubbard and as the scheduled speaker Chris Smith was unavailable, Liz introduced Rosemary Prosser who talked about her decision to start a farmhouse bed & breakfast in the early 1980s.

Entitled 'One Egg or Two', recollections of the many pleasant and some unpleasant people who stayed, and of the spectrum of experiences, formed the basis of her talk. It was a light-hearted talk with many humorous episodes. Liz Hubbard gave the vote of thanks.

The Inter Guild Quiz is on June 1 at Stourbridge Football Club.

Ann Birchell also gave details of a race day on June 24 which includes a fish and chip lunch and a competition of the most elegant or quirky hat

There will be a Harvest Lunch in October and the carol service on December 12.

Liz will host the coffee morning on May 21 and Doreen Davies on June 10.

On May 18 Mike Guy will demonstrate, with audience participation, 'The Ins and Outs of Origami', the art of paper folding.

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Visit the wonderful 16th century city of Valletta and enjoy a guided walking tour. The area has a Mediterranean atmosphere and appearance, with quiet squares lined with restaurants and intricate wrought iron balconies. A day is also spent on the nearby island of Gozo visiting its capital Victoria, and Ggantija, the largest and best preserved of the island's prehistoric temple sites.

Take the short drive to ancient Mdina, the jewel in the crown of the entire island and until medieval times, Malta's capital. Perched on a hill and surrounded by huge walls, its narrow streets and alleys ooze history.

A visit is also made to the amazing Neolithic temples at Tarxien, which date between 3,000 and 1,800 BC and showcase the ancient cultures of Malta.

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What rotters

Dirty Rotten Scoundrels
Page 25

Time of her life

Dirty Dancing star –
Page 25

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Jimmy Carr

Saturday, 8pm
Civic Hall, Wolverhampton
Often described as the hardest working comedian on the circuit, and a glance at his tour itinerary shows why, the gag machine with the distinctive guffaw is back with his Funny Business show. **See www.wolvescivic.co.uk**

Joe McElderry

Saturday, 7.30pm
Wulfrun Hall, Wolverhampton
The X Factor winner in 2009, the singer from South Shields went on to win Popstar to Operastar and the first series of The Jump. The 23-year-old crooner returns with his Evolution tour. **See www.wolvescivic.co.uk**

Stewart Lee

Saturday, 8pm
Symphony Hall, Birmingham
Lee hasn't had the stadium success of some comedians and that's the way he likes it. He regularly sells out venues and has the respect of other comics, although some have been known to nick his jokes. **See www.thsh.co.uk**

Oh What A Lovely War

Tuesday to Saturday, 7 or 7.30pm, 2pm, Birmingham Rep
Coronation Street's Wendi Peters joins the ensemble cast for a revival of Joan Littlewood's sharp satire contrasting First World War music hall songs with the carnage of the trenches. **See www.birmingham-rep.co.uk**

ROCK & POP

Joe McElderry
Sat at 6.45pm
£15 - £20.90
Wulfrun Hall,
Wolverhampton, WV1 3HH.
01902 552106

Bon Giovi
Friday at 7.30pm
£12 - £13
The Robin 2 Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
01902 401211

S Club 7
Thu at 7.30pm, £40.08 - £51.33
Genting Arena Birmingham, B40 1NT. 0121 780 4141

Beholder
Sat at 6.45pm, £8.55
O2 Academy Birmingham B1 1DB. 0121 622 8250

Valous
Sun at 6pm, £5 adv
The Flapper, Cambrian Wharf, Birmingham, B1 2NU.
0121 236 2421

Clare Maguire
Fri at 8pm, £7
The Glee Club, Birmingham, B5 4TD. 0871 472 0400

COMEDY

Stewart Lee – A Room With A Stew
Sat at 8pm, £21
Symphony Hall,
Birmingham, B1 2EA.
0121 780 3333

Jimmy Carr – Funny Business
Sat at 8pm, £27.50
Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton, WV1 1RD. 0870 320 7000

Comedy & Carousel
Thu at 7pm,
£5 - £19.50
The Glee Club, Birmingham, B5 4TD. 0871 472 0400

Tim Vine
Fri at 7.30pm, £21 - £24.20
Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR.
01543 412121

CLASSICAL & OPERA

Royal Ballet: La Fille Mal Gardée
Tue at 7.15pm, £11 - £18
Light House,Wolverhampton, WV1 1HT.
01902 716055

Rachmaninoff Vespers
Sun at 4pm, £9.50 - £35
Town Hall Birmingham, B3 3DQ.
0121 780 3333

CBSO Haydn in London
Wed at 2.15pm, Thu at 7.30pm, £12.50 - £41
Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA. 0121 780 3333

CBSO Friday Night Classics
Fri at 7.30pm,
£10 - £32
Symphony Hall, Birmingham B1 2EA. 0121 780 3333

COUNTRY & FOLK/BLUES

Sandpiper Folk Club Night
Wed at 7.45pm, £2
Pigot Arms, Pattingham, WV6 7BQ. 01902 700207

Black Diamond Singers Night
Fri at 8.30pm, Check for admission charges
The Lamp Tavern,Barford Street, Birmingham, B5 6AH.
0121 622 2599

Common Folk: Singers' Night
Thu at 8.30pm, £1
Pelsall Cricket & Sports Club, Walsall Road,WV3 4BP.
01922 682018

Altan
Thu at 8pm, £18 - £20
mac birmingham, Cannon Hill Park, B12 9QH. 0121 446 3232

Charley Pride
Mon at 7.30pm, £30 - £40
Symphony Hall, Broad Street, Birmingham, B1 2EA.
0121 780 3333

The Full English
Thu at 7.30pm, £21.50
Town Hall Birmingham, B3 3DQ.
0121 780 3333

Rebecca Downes +...
Thu at 7.30pm, £10
The Robin 2 , Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
01902 401211

Dustin Kensrue
Wed at 7pm, £18.50
The Glee Club, 7Birmingham, B5 4TD. 0871 472 0400

ALTERNATIVE & INDIE

Jack Rocks The Road To...
Mon at 7pm - 11pm, £5 adv
The Institute, B5 6DY.
0121 643 0428

Pinkshinyultrablast
Thu at 7pm, £6. adv
The Institute, Birmingham, B5 6DY. 0121 643 0428

SKA/REGGAE

Fudgestock 2015
Sun at 5pm, £5 - £6
The Robin 2 , Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
01902 401211

Balkanic Eruption - CUMBIA SPECIAL, Sat at 9pm, £6
Hare & Hounds, Birmingham, B14 7JZ. 0844 870 0000

WaDaDa - Live Ska Reggae
Mon at 8pm, £10
Hare & Hounds, High Street, Birmingham, B14 7JZ. 0844 870 0000

DANCE

Embraced Burlesque
Sat at 8pm, £10
Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton, WV1 4AN.
01902 572090

Catapult Club feat. Plastic Factory
Fri at 6pm, £7.05
O2 Academy Birmingham, B1 1DB. 0121 622 8250

EXHIBITIONS

Artists for Ikon
Fri, Sat, Sun at 11am - 6pm, Mon at 11am - 6pm, Free
Ikon Gallery, Brindleyplace, Birmingham, B1 2HS.
0121 248 0708

Siân Macfarlane
Sun at 12pm - 4pm, Fri, Sat, Tue, Wed, Thu at 10am - 5pm, Free
The New Art Gallery Walsall, WS2 8LG. 01922 654400

St Ives Artists
Sat, Tue, Wed, Thu at 10am - 5pm, Sun at 12pm - 4pm, Free
The New Art Gallery Walsall, WS2 8LG. 01922 654400

Soldier Stories
Fri at 10.30am - 5pm, Sat, Sun, Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu at 10am - 5pm, Free
Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, B3 3DH.
0121 303 1966

Faith & Action
Sat, Sun, Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu at 10am - 5pm, Fri at 10.30am - 5pm, Free
Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, B3 3DH.
0121 303 1966

Pop in Space
Fri at 10am - 5pm, Sat at 10.30am - 4.30pm, Tue, Wed, Thu at 10am - 5pm, Free
Wolverhampton Art Gallery, WV1 1DU. 01902 552055

The Poetic Impossibility...
Fri at 10am - 5pm, Sat at 10.30am - 4.30pm,
Free, Wolverhampton Art Gallery, WV1 1DU. 01902 552055

The Current Situation
Fri at 10am - 5pm, Sat at 10.30am - 4.30pm, Tue, Wed, Thu at 10am - 5pm,
Free, Wolverhampton Art Gallery, WV1 1DU. 01902 552055

Floralia Festival
Fri, Sat, Sun, Mon at 11am - 5pm, Free. Wightwick Manor, WV6 8EE. 01902 760100

On The Right Tracks
Fri, Sat, Sun, Tue, Wed, Thu at 11am - 5pm,
Free, Bantock House Museum, WV3 9LQ. 01902 552195

Bilston's Happy Housing
Fri at 10am - 1pm, Sat at 11am - 4pm, free,
Bilston Craft Gallery, Mount Pleasant, WV14 7LU.
01902 552507

Found
Fri, Sat at 10am - 5pm, Sun at 12pm - 4pm,
Free, New Art Gallery Walsall, WS2 8LG. 01922 654400

The Clive Beardsmore Gift
Fri, Sat, Tue, Wed, Thu at 10am - 5pm, Sun at 12pm - 4pm, Free
New Art Gallery Walsall, WS2 8LG. 01922 654400

Art From Elsewhere
Sat, Tue, Wed, Thu at 10am - 5pm, Fri at 10.30am - 5pm,
Free, Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, B3 3DH.
0121 303 1966

Love is Enough
Sat, Sun, Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu at 10am - 5pm, Fri at 10.30am - 5pm, £3 - £7
Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, B3 3DH. 0121 303 1966

Robert Groves
Fri, Sat, Sun at 11am - 6pm, Mon at 11am - 6pm, Free
Ikon Gallery, Brindleyplace, Birmingham, B1 2HS.
0121 248 0708

A Touch of Glass
Fri, Sat, Sun, Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu at 10am - 4pm, Free
Red House Glass Cone, High Street, Stourbridge, DY8 4AZ.
01384 812750

THEATRES

Dirty Dancing
Fri, Sat, Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu at 7.30pm, Wed at 2pm, Sat at 2.30pm, £20 - £55
Birmingham Hippodrome, B5 4TB. 0844 338 5000

The Bodyguard The Musical
Sat at 2.30pm, Fri, Sat at 7.30pm, £18 - £49.50
Wolverhampton Grand, WV1 1DE. 01902 573320

Collidoscope
Sat at 7.30pm, £8 - £12
Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton, WV1 1SE. 01902 321321

Feed The Beast
Fri, Sat at 7.45pm, Sat at 2.45pm, £12 - £20
Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP. 0121 236 4455

Rebecca
Fri, Sat at 7.30pm, Sat at 2pm, £13.50 - £35
Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP. 0121 236 4455

First Stages - Open House
Sat at 11.30am, 2pm, 3.30pm, £6 - £9
Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP. 0121 236 4455

Oh What A Lovely War
Tue at 7pm, Wed, Thu at 7.30pm, Thu at 2pm, £13.50 - £35
Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP. 0121 236 4455

Sister Act
Tue, Wed, Thu at 7.30pm,
£15 - £18
Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR.
01543 412121

Dirty Rotten Scoundrels
Tue, Wed, Thu at 7.30pm, Wed at 2.30pm, £15.50 - £53.40
New Alexandra Theatre,Birmingham, B5 4DS.
0844 871 3011

The Pirates of Penzance
Fri, Sat at 7.30pm, Sat at 2pm, £7.50 - £15
The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham, B16 8AE.
0121 643 5858

Sister Act
Tue, Wed, Thu at 7.30pm
£15 - £18
The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham, B16 8AE.
0121 643 5858

A Night at the Music Hall
Wed at 2.30pm, 7.30pm, £14.50
Wolverhampton Grand , WV1 1DE. 01902 573320

Open Door With Bold Text
Tue at 8pm, Free
Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP. 0121 236 4455

Five Kinds of Silence
Fri, Sat at 7.30pm, £10
The Old Joint Stock, Temple Row West, Birmingham, B2 5NY.
0121 200 1892

Our Day Out
Thu at 7.30pm, £8 - £10
Prince Of Wales Centre, Church Street, Cannock, WS11 1DE.
01543 578762

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The Robin 2 , Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
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Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star

Keeping a watch out for Scoundrels

Scam-tastic, it's the Dirty Rotten Scoundrels cast for Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre — Michael Praed (as Lawrence), Carley Stenson (Christine), Noel Sullivan (Freddy) and Mark Benton (Andre) Photograph by Paul Rider

LIVE the Riviera life in Brum next week when eagerly-awaited comedy musical Dirty Rotten Scoundrels arrives for a fortnight run at the New Alexandra Theatre.

Direct from London's West End, where it ran for a year to rave reviews and packed houses, the hit show is based on the classic 1988 movie starring Michael Caine and Steve Martin as a pair of conmen operating in the South of France.

The chalk and cheese partners end up vying with each other to scam a millionaire heiress.

The cast for the May 5 to 16 run in Birmingham is led by former Robin of Sherwood star Michael Praed as Lawrence with former Hear'Say singer Noel Sullivan as Freddy. Waterloo Road actor Mark Benton plays Andre.

They are joined by Carley Stenson from Hollyoaks as Christine, the object of their desires.

Star role start for Jessie, 22

A RISING star of the stage from Dudley will take on a lead role in the UK tour of Dirty Dancing when it comes to Birmingham Hippodrome.

Drama school graduate Jessie Hart, from Wall Heath, will star as Baby Houseman during the three-week run at the Birmingham theatre, which starts tonight.

The 22-year-old actress recently graduated from the Mountview of Theatre Arts in London and also appeared in ITV drama Arthur and George. She said: "Birmingham Hippodrome was where I saw the first show I can remember. I saw Miss Saigon there when I was about 11 with all my family. It was my favourite ever show and I'll never forget it. It's crazy to think that I will open my run of the tour, playing the leading role, Baby, on that same stage."

Lewis Kirk will star alongside her as Johnny Castle, the role that was famously played by Patrick Swayze in the 1987 film. It tells the story of two fiercely independent young people from different worlds, who fall in love at a holiday resort. It features hit songs, including Hey Baby, Do You Love Me? and (I've Had) The Time Of My Life.

Fans of the cult classic movie will delight in this stage version, particularly the famous set pieces including the line 'Nobody puts Baby in a corner' and the famous lift dance move that gets roars of approval. It has been adapted for the stage by the movie's writer Eleanor Bergstein and the production values are worthy of the West End.

Dirty Dancing will run at the Hippodrome until May 23.

Rockers coming home for concert

BLACK Country rock band Martyr De Mona — who have opened for Black Stone Cherry and the legendary Slash on tour — have announced a new gig in their home region.

Described by Midlands Rocks as 'undoubtedly the Midlands' hottest band at the moment!', Martyr De Mona will be taking to the stage at Wolverhampton's Slade Rooms on December 18.

The Stourbridge band have already supported Black Sabbath, Avenged Sevenfold, and Alter Bridge.

Tickets start at £8.80 (including booking fee) and are available from Midland Box Office on 0870 3207000 or online at the www.wolvescivic.co.uk website.

War and many a music hall piece

JOAN Littlewood's musical Oh What A Lovely War is coming to Birmingham Repertory Theatre. Directed by University of Birmingham graduate, Terry Johnson, the revival is at The Rep from May 5 to 9 as the final venue of the show's UK tour.

The satirical show about the First World War, in which songs of the era are performed against a backdrop conveying the harsh realities of war, will feature Ian Reddington (Eastenders, Coronation Street), Christopher Villiers (Emmerdale) and Wendi Peters, best known as Cilla Battersby in Coronation Street, in the cast. See the website www.birmingham-rep.co.uk

Ricky and co are kings of the castle

WARWICK Castle will be the location for Sounds in the Grounds this summer, a pair of concerts for rock and classical music fans.

The event will kick off on July 10 with a gig by Kaiser Chiefs, featuring singer and The Voice judge Ricky Wilson, with support from rapper Professor Green and rising star singer Ella Eyre. Then on July 11 The Royal Philharmonic Concert Orchestra present a Proms style repertoire for flag-waving crowds. Secial guest will be The Voice 2015 runner-up, Dublin opera singer Lucy O'Byrne.

For more information see www.soundsinthegrounds.com

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Sandwell Chronicle Thursday, April 30, 2015

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ONE of the most naturally beautiful regions in England, the Lake District has long inspired the nation.

From William Wordsworth and the Lake Poets to the death of Joe McIntyre in Coronation Street, the Lakes have inspired popular culture as well as bringing in tourists with its stunning scenery and welcoming retreats.

Foremost in popularity is, of course, Windermere – the largest lake in the country. But dig a little further afield and there are plenty of fantastic finds spread across Cumbria.

Take, for example, the haven of Ravenglass. Home to roughly 200 residents it is the only coastal settlement in the region and sits on the mouths of three rivers – the Esk, Mite and Irt. Dating back to the Second

By Leigh Sanders

Century it was an important naval base to the Romans and is steeped in history.

From the visible remains of a Roman bathhouse to the stunning Muncaster Castle lying a mile or so inland, there is plenty to keep you occupied while abandoning the rigours of driving for a couple of days.

Haunted

Muncaster is a must for anyone visiting the area. It is home to many ghostly tales and strange happenings which add to its intrigue. You can rent it out privately for any function ranging from university reunions to weddings. One of the main legends surrounds the wandering, dethroned Henry VI after a defeat in the War of the Roses.

After being given sanctuary at Muncaster, on his leaving he gave his drinking bowl to the Pennington family declaring that as long as it stayed intact they would live and thrive in the place.

There is talk of a haunted bedroom, which needs to be seen before trying to make up your mind, while the legend of Tom Fool and his tenure as jester to the Pennington family landed the word 'tomfoolery' into our language and led to the brewing of a rather scrumptious ale in the area.

But topping all the history is the stunning views northwards over the Eskdale Valley towards Scafell Pike – England's highest mountain. Ruskin described it as 'the gateway to paradise', and standing outside the castle's main entrance you can see why. The grounds are extensive, hosting many walks, and there is the World Owl Centre – home to an extremely rare Ethiopian eagle owl. When your feet are all walked out, Ravenglass hosts three great locations to recharge with food and drink.

The Pennington Hotel restaurant, The Inn @ Ravenglass and The Ratty Arms all serve up tantalising fish dishes and a bevy of locally brewed ales.

Other than the impressive Muncaster and the historic Ravenglass & Eskdale Steam Railway that provides transport inland to Dalegarth and Boot, there is no real need to pay entry to an attraction. Thousands of strolls await.

Once you have seen the coast it is worth heading inland to see what else the Lakes have to offer. If the tourist-orientated Windermere isn't to your taste then head north through Kirkstone Pass towards Ullswater – the second largest expanse of water. Kirkstone Pass offers too many Middle Earth-esque views to mention.

If a country break is what you require then look no further.

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CHOICE

Mark Harmon

NCIS
Channel 5, 8.20pm)
The shooting of a petty officer looks like an open-and-shut case when a Russian man is found with a recently fired gun in his car. However, the investigation takes a dramatic turn when it is revealed he is working as a spy for the Department of Homeland Security.
American drama following the work of the Naval Criminal Investigative Service that investigates cases involving the US Navy and Marine Corps. Starring Mark Harmon alongside Michael Weatherly, Pauley Perrette, David McCallum, Cote de Pablo, Sean Murray, Lauren Holly, Armando Molina, VJ Foster, Nolan North, Albie Selznick, Ravil Isyanov, Geoff Pierson

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Paul Hollywood's Bread. (R) **12.00** BBC News; Weather. **12.10** Football Focus. **1.00** Football Focus: Championship Special. **2.15** Live Snooker: The World Championship. The opening semi-final is set to reach a conclusion. **4.30** Final Score. **5.10 Film:** WALL.E. (2008) Pixar animated adventure, with the voice of Ben Burtt.

6.40 BBC News.

6.50 Regional Programme.

6.55 Pointless Celebrities. Alexander Armstrong quizzes a line-up of contestants who work on shows with a wildlife or natural history theme. They are birdwatcher Bill Oddie and historian Tessa Dunlop, Countryfile presenters John Craven and Shauna Lowry, TV gardener Diarmuid Gavin and Coast presenter Miranda Krestovnikoff, and Blue Peter hosts-turned-wildlife presenters Helen Skelton and Radzi Chinyanganya. Richard Osman is the man with the answers.

7.45 Atlantis. Jason's discovery has blackened his heart, leaving him careless and foolhardy – so a concerned Pythagoras sets out in search of someone who can help save his friend.

8.30 The National Lottery: In It to Win It. Dale Winton presents the quiz in which up to five contestants answer questions to scoop a big cash prize. Only those in the winners' row will have a chance of taking home the loot, so they will need to get all the answers right – as well as a little bit of luck on their side. Including the Lotto and Thunderball draws, presented by Jenni Falconer, with guest Brian Conley.

9.20 Casualty. Connie goes on trial for Alfred's murder, Rita suspects a young girl who cut her wrists is being abused and Mac helps a woman cope with her mother, who has dementia.

10.10 BBC News; Weather.

10.30 Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League clashes, which included Liverpool v Queens Park Rangers and Manchester United v West Bromwich Albion; National Lottery Update.

11.55 The Football League Show.

1.05 Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.10** BBC News.

BBC2

6.15 Film: Gambling House. (1950) **7.35 Film:** The Red Beret. (1953) **9.00** The Nature of Britain. (R) **10.00** Live Snooker: The World Championship. **12.00** Alex Polizzi: Chefs on Trial. (R) **1.00** Michel Roux's Service. (R) **2.00** James Martin's Food Map of Britain. (R) **2.20** Timewatch: Inside the Mind of Adolf Hitler. (R) **3.10** Timewatch: The Making of Adolf Hitler. (R) **4.00** The World's Most Photographed. (R) **4.30** Live Snooker: The World Championship. The opening semi-final is set to reach a conclusion. **5.30** Iceland – Land of Ice and Fire: Natural World. (R)

6.30 Dad's Army. First-ever episode of the classic comedy, in which bank manager George Mainwaring assembles a motley crew of volunteers to protect Britain from Nazi invasion. Arthur Lowe stars. (R)

7.00 Live Snooker: The World Championship. Hazel Irvine presents coverage of the fourth and final session of the second semi-final at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, where the first player to reach 17 frames will progress to the final. This match produced a thriller last year between Mark Selby and Neil Robertson, with both men aiming to reach their second final, and it was Selby who prevailed 17-15 in an encounter that lasted more than 12 hours. The commentary team includes Dennis Taylor, Willie Thorne and Stephen Hendry. Subsequent programmes subject to change.

9.30 Film: Quartet. (2012) Three former opera singers prepare for their annual concert to mark Verdi's birthday and raise funds for their retirement home. However, this year, a famous diva has joined the group, and her history with the others threatens the performance. Comedy drama, directed by Dustin Hoffman and starring Maggie Smith, Billy Connolly, Tom Courtenay, Pauline Collins and Michael Gambon.

11.00 QI XL. Extended edition. Noel Fielding, Ross Noble and Colin Lane join regular panellist Alan Davies as host Stephen Fry asks a range of unusual questions on the topic of kit and kaboodle. (R)

11.50 Film: Perfume: The Story of a Murderer. (2006) Period thriller, with Ben Whishaw, Dustin Hoffman and Alan Rickman.

2.00 Film: Honeymooner. (2010)

ITV

6.00 CITV: Bottom Knocker Street. **6.10** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.20** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.15** Sooty. (R) **7.30** Super 4. (R) **7.45** Nerds & Monsters. (R) **8.00** Thunderbirds Are Go. **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **10.20** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **11.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **12.30** ITV News; Weather. **12.40** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **1.45** Doc Martin. (R) **2.50** Who's Doing the Dishes? (R) **3.50 Film:** The Great Outdoors. (1988) Comedy, starring John Candy and Dan Aykroyd. **5.30** Regional Programme ; Weather.**5.45** ITV News; Weather.

6.00 New You've Been Framed! Unleashed! Painful pranks, below-the-belt mishaps and stunts gone wrong are on the menu in this special edition, as Harry Hill reveals some of the wildest accidents caught on camera by viewers.

7.00 Ninja Warrior UK. Contenders from across the nation test their strength, speed and courage in the fourth heat of the obstacle-course challenge, all hoping to progress to the semi-finals.

8.00 Britain's Got Talent. Ant and Dec host the fourth audition show, as the judges – Simon Cowell, David Walliams, Amanda Holden and Alesha Dixon – give their verdicts on more of the nation's best, and worst, performers. Queuing up to take the stage, acts of all ages and abilities are determined to prove they're worthy of the £250,000 cash prize and a slot at this year's Royal Variety Performance, but while some of them will be deserving, the dream will be over for those whose auditions are cut short by the panel.

9.15 Play to the Whistle. Team captains Bradley Walsh and Frank Lampard are joined by guests including Dermot O'Leary and Romesh Ranganathan. Holly Willoughby hosts the sports-based comedy panel show.

10.00 ITV News; Weather.

10.15 Film: Cliffhanger. (1993) A retired mountain rescue expert is drawn into a battle of wits with a criminal searching for a lost fortune in the Rockies. Thriller, starring Sylvester Stallone and John Lithgow.

12.15 Jackpot247. **3.00** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **3.40** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.15 How I Met Your Mother. (R) **6.40** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **7.05** Challenge Dubai. **8.00** The Morning Line. **9.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **10.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **10.30** Frasier. (R) **11.00** Frasier. (R) **11.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.30** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD. (R) **1.30** Channel 4 Racing. Including the 2,000 Guineas at 3.45. **4.15** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.50** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.20** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.50** Come Dine with Me. (R)

6.20 Come Dine with Me. Estate agent Wendy Tinnion hosts the final night in Cumbria, and her guests are in for a shock when they discover something unexpected. (R)

6.45 Channel 4 News.

7.15 For the Love of Cars. Philip Glenister gets to fulfil an ultimate high-octane dream and drive some of Britain's most iconic police cars. Alongside him is former cop Ant Anstead, who demonstrates how to master these versatile vehicles. The duo get to work restoring a Rover SD1 discovered on a driveway in Essex, and push a 1959 Daimler Dart to the limit re-enacting the notorious "Liver Run", accompanied by out-riders on the M11, and through the busy streets of London. (R)

8.15 Film: Men in Black II. (2002) Agent J investigates the unauthorised landing of a spacecraft and discovers a malevolent alien disguised as a lingerie model is on the verge of destroying humanity. His only hope of stopping her diabolical plot is to restore the memory of his retired partner K – but his former mentor takes more than a little convincing. Sci-fi comedy sequel, directed by Barry Sonnenfeld, starring Will Smith, Tommy Lee Jones, Rosario Dawson, Lara Flynn Boyle, Johnny Knoxville, Rip Torn and Tony Shalhoub.

10.00 Film: Dredd. (2012) Premiere. Sci-fi thriller, starring Karl Urban and Lena Headey.

11.55 Stephen Merchant: Hello Ladies. The Office co-creator's critically acclaimed 2011 stand-up comedy show, based on his experiences of the rocky road to finding love. (R)

12.55 The Last Leg. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.35** The Dog Rescuers. (R) **11.05** Cowboy Builders & Bodge Jobs. (R) **12.00** Cowboy Builders & Bodge Jobs. (R) **1.00** Cowboy Builders & Bodge Jobs. (R) **2.00 Film:** Columbo Undercover. (1994) Detective drama, starring Peter Falk. **3.55 Film:** Secret Liaison. (2013) Thriller, starring Meredith Monroe. **5.35** The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R)

6.30 Britain's Horror Homes. A man who turned his house into a fortress after being burgled 10 times, and an engineer who devised a plan to reduce the risk of his property being flooded again. (R)

7.20 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. Paul Bohill and Ben Pinner are called in to evict squatters from a residential property, and it soon becomes clear that things are not quite what they seem. Brian O'Shaughnessy and Graham Aldred arrive at a restaurant in north London to collect unpaid rent, but the situation becomes heated and the debtors make accusations to the police that could ruin the High Court enforcement agents' careers. (R)

8.15 5 News Weekend.

8.20 NCIS. A Russian man becomes the prime suspect when a petty officer is found dead, but receives protection from the Department of Homeland Security. (R)

9.10 NCIS. The team investigates the murder of a lance corporal, whose body has been found in an empty house, and discovers he had a number of spurned lovers and a $2million inheritance. Ducky and Gibbs interview one of the dead marine's partners, but disagree over whether she is telling the truth. David McCallum and Mark Harmon star. (R)

10.10 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. A caped vigilante is killed while trying to protect a homeless man from a brutal gang, and footage of vandals attacking a shop on the same night offers a potential line of inquiry.

11.05 Law & Order: Special Victims Unit. A teenage girl is hurt in a fall, but doctors discover she is also suffering from injuries sustained in an attack, setting Benson and Stabler off on a search for her assailant. (R)

12.05 SuperCasino.

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Great Movie Mistakes – Not in 3D **7.10** Top Gear **8.10** Don't Tell the Bride **9.10** Live at the Apollo **10.10** Happy Valley **11.10** Family Guy **1.25** Killer Magic **1.55** Live at the Apollo **2.55** Tatau **3.35** Vodka Diaries **4.00** Close

BBC Four
7.00 Survivors: Nature's Indestructible Creatures **8.00** Wild China **9.00** Inspector Montalbano **10.45** Len Goodman's Big Band Bonanza **11.45** Top of the Pops: 1980 **12.15** Chas & Dave: Last Orders **1.15** Survivors: Nature's Indestructible Creatures **2.15** Wild China **3.15** Close

ITV2
11.05 Britain's Got Talent **12.20** Britain's Got More Talent **1.25** A Night in with Olly Murs **2.30** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.45 Film:** Homeward Bound: The Incredible Journey (1993) **4.30** Mr Bean **5.40 Film:** Johnny English (2003) **7.30 Film:** Mr Bean's Holiday (2007) **9.15** Britain's Got More Talent **10.15** Celebrity Juice: Keith's Birthday Party **11.00** Britain's Got Talent **12.20** Britain's Got More Talent **1.20** Hell's Kitchen **2.05** Crazy Beaches

ITV3
11.15 Agatha Christie's Marple **1.20 Film:** Carry On Screaming (1966) **3.15** Wycliffe **4.25 Film:** Columbo: Lady in Waiting (1971) **6.00** Lewis **8.00** Doc Martin **9.00** Foyle's War **11.05** Inspector Morse **1.25** Wire in the Blood

ITV4
11.25 Pawn Stars **2.00** Cycling: Tour de Yorkshire Live. Coverage of the second stage of the inaugural race. **4.00** Storage Wars **5.00** Storage Wars: Texas **6.00** Shed and Buried **7.00** Cycling: Tour de Yorkshire **8.00 Film:** From Russia with Love (1963) **10.25 Film:** Manny (2014)

E4
11.00 The Goldbergs **12.00** How I Met Your Mother **1.00** The Big Bang Theory: It All Started with a Big Bang **1.30** The Big Bang Theory **4.00** Made in Chelsea **5.00** Jane the Virgin **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00 Film:** Coming to America (1988) **11.20** The IT Crowd **12.25** The Inbetweeners **1.25** Rude Tube **2.25** Bodyshockers: Nips, Tucks and Tattoos **3.20** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **3.45** How I Met Your Mother **4.30** Make It or Break It

Film4
11.00 Bugsy Malone (1976) **1.00** Mr Popper's Penguins (2011) **2.55** The Wackiest Ship in the Army (1960) **5.00** Fool's Gold (2008) **7.15** Airplane! (1980) **9.00** Season of the Witch (2011) **10.45** The Pact (2012) **12.30** Scary Movie 2 (2001) **2.10** Shutter (2008) **3.55** Close

CHOICE

Hazel Irvine

Live Snooker: The World Championship (BBC2, 7.00pm)
Hazel Irvine presents all the latest action from the second session of the final at Sheffield's Crucible Theatre, where a further nine frames are scheduled to take place. The second session of last year's final took on a similar pattern to the first, with Ronnie O'Sullivan winning five frames to move into a 10-7 lead heading into the final day against Mark Selby. The commentary team features five former world champions in Dennis Taylor, Steve Davis, John Parrott, Ken Doherty and Stephen Hendry. The team will certainly be able to relate to the pressure felt by the players here today. Subsequent programmes subject to change.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.30** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Sunday Politics. **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. With Mark Chapman and the Match of the Day team. **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Bargain Hunt. **2.15** Escape to the Country. (R) **3.15** Pets – Wild at Heart. (R) **4.15** Points of View. **4.30** Songs of Praise – School Choir of the Year. **5.15** Pointless Celebrities. (R)
6.05 BBC News.
6.20 Regional Programme.
6.30 Countryfile. The team celebrates spring, as Matt Baker meets orphan lambs in north Wales, Ellie Harrison listens to seasonal sounds and Anita Rani visits an unusual barbecue. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.
7.30 Antiques Roadshow. A visit to Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum in Glasgow, where items include insect jewellery, a silver cup from the time of Oliver Cromwell and a claymore sword from the Boer War.
8.30 The C Word. Sheridan Smith stars in this drama based on the blog and book by Lisa Lynch, an account of her life after being diagnosed with breast cancer. Twenty-eight-year-old Lisa's life is going exactly the way she wanted – she has recently married the man of her dreams and her career is on the up. Then out of the blue, she receives a shocking a diagnosis from the doctor that threatens to stop her in her tracks. Right from the start, however, Lisa is determined not to let cancer change her, and begins to write about her experience – unaware of the effect it will have on her life and that of others. Paul Nicholls, Haydn Gwynne and Michael Maloney co-star.
10.00 BBC News.
10.20 Regional Programme.
10.30 Match of the Day 2. Mark Chapman reviews the latest Premier League action, featuring Tottenham Hotspur v Manchester City at White Hart Lane and Chelsea v Crystal Palace.
11.35 The Football League Show. Manish Bhasin presents highlights and all the goals from the final weekend of the regular season in League One, including Colchester United v Preston North End.
12.15 Weather for the Week Ahead.

BBC2

6.00 Life in a Cottage Garden with Carol Klein. (R) **6.30** Great British Garden Revival. (R) **7.30** Countryfile. (R) **8.30** The Beechgrove Garden. **9.00** The Football League Show. (R) **10.10** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.40** Back in Time for Dinner. (R) **12.40** Alex Polizzi: Chefs on Trial. (R) **1.40** James Martin's Food Map of Britain. (R) **2.00** Live Snooker: The World Championship. The opening session of the final at the Crucible Theatre.
6.00 Flog It! David Fletcher and Anita Manning search for collectibles at Alnwick Castle in Northumberland, valuing items including Murano glass figurines and a Newcastle shipyard visitors' book. Paul Martin also explores the building's State Rooms, learning about the Percy family's tastes. (R)
7.00 Live Snooker: The World Championship. Hazel Irvine presents all the action from the second session of the final at Sheffield's Crucible Theatre, where a further nine frames are scheduled to take place. The second session of last year's final took on a similar pattern to the first, with Ronnie O'Sullivan winning five frames to move into a 10-7 lead heading into the final day against Mark Selby. The commentary team features five former world champions in Dennis Taylor, Steve Davis, John Parrott, Ken Doherty and Stephen Hendry. Subsequent programmes subject to change.
11.00 W1A. Anna puts herself forward for the newly advertised role of Head of Better, and rumours circulate that Newsnight anchor Evan Davis is to be a contestant on Strictly Come Dancing. (R)
11.30 Film: The Accidental Husband. (2008) A radio host planning her wedding discovers she is already legally married to a man she has never even met. Romantic comedy, with Uma Thurman, Colin Firth and Jeffrey Dean Morgan.
12.50 Sign Zone: Countryfile. From the Peak District, with items on making the countryside accessible to the disabled, the National Search and Rescue Dog Association, the Pennine Way and preventing hayfever. (R) **1.50** Holby City. Annabelle and Zosia disagree with Guy over a special case, a new pair of shoes gets Serena into an embarrassing situation with a new admirer and Mo arranges to meet her real father. (R)

ITV

6.00 CITV: Bottom Knocker Street. **6.10** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.20** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.15** Sooty. (R) **7.30** Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** Judge Rinder. (R) **10.25** Judge Rinder. (R) **11.25** Judge Rinder. (R) **12.25** ITV News; Weather. **12.35** Tipping Point. (R) **1.30** Britain's Got Talent. (R) **2.45 Film:** Dragnet. (1987) Spoof crime drama, starring Dan Aykroyd and Tom Hanks. **4.50** All Star Family Fortunes. (R) **5.50** Ninja Warrior UK. (R)
6.50 Regional Programme; Weather.
7.00 ITV News; Weather.
7.15 Celebrity Squares. Julian Clary, Katherine Ryan, Paul Hollywood, Ugo Monye, Hayley Tamaddon, Doon Mackichan and Paul Chowdhry join regulars Tim Vine and Joe Wilkinson in the grid. Warwick Davis hosts.
8.00 Sunday Night at the Palladium. New series. Bradley Walsh hosts the variety show this week, with performances by Olly Murs, Madness, Alfie Boe, Jo Brand, slapstick duo Men in Coats and animal act Olate Dogs.
9.00 Home Fires. New series. Drama about the lives of a group of Women's Institute members in a rural Cheshire community during the Second World War. In the face of an impending conflict with Germany, the Great Paxford WI faces a difficult decision. When president Joyce Cameron resigns, taking most of the membership with her, Frances Barden and her supporters must recruit new helpers from unexpected places. Starring Samantha Bond, Francesca Annis, Ruth Gemmell, Claire Rushbrook and Frances Grey, with Ed Stoppard and Mark Bazeley.
10.05 ITV News; Weather.
10.20 Perspectives: Rick Wakeman on Vivaldi's Four Seasons. The prog rock keyboardist explores the story of the famous classical piece, finding out why it disappeared into obscurity for more than 200 years after the composer's death.
11.20 Churchill: 100 Days That Saved Britain. (R)
12.15 The Store. **2.30** Motorsport UK. **3.20** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.20 How I Met Your Mother. (R) **6.45** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **7.10** Caterham Motorsports. **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** George Clarke's Amazing Spaces. (R) **1.30** Channel 4 Racing. Including the 1,000 Guineas at 3.40. **4.00** A Place in the Sun: Home or Away. **5.00** Channel 4 News. **5.20 Film:** The Karate Kid. (2010) Martial arts drama, with Jaden Smith and Jackie Chan.
8.00 For the Love of Cars. Philip Glenister and Ant Anstead turn their attention to the 1980s "hot hatch" – city run-a-rounds, such as the Volkswagen Golf GTi and Peugeot 205, which became must-haves for boy racers. They help transform a Golf GTi Mk 1 into a rally car and meet hatchback fanatics to discover why people are so passionate about these vehicles and how, for some, they defined an era.
9.00 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown. New series. Jimmy Carr returns with this comedy version of the famous afternoon game show, with Sean Lock, Bill Bailey and Paul Foot going up against guest captain Sarah Millican with Rob Delaney and Romesh Ranganathan. Nina Conti joins Countdown's resident lexicographer Susie Dent in Dictionary Corner, while Rachel Riley looks after the letters and numbers at the board.
10.05 An Immigrant's Guide to Britain. Comedian and first-generation immigrant Henning Wehn leads an irreverent guide to life in Britain from the perspective of some of its most notoriously polarising inhabitants.
10.35 Gogglebox. Capturing the households' instant reactions to what they are watching on TV from the comfort of their own sofas. Narrated by Caroline Aherne. (R)
11.40 Bill Bailey Qualmpeddler. Stand-up comedy from London's Hammersmith Apollo, accompanied by light-hearted musical numbers, from religious dubstep and German folk-metal to a reggae version of Downton Abbey. (R)
12.40 Film: 12 Rounds. (2009) **2.35** Alan Carr: Chatty Man. (R) **3.30 Film:** Ashad Ka Ek Din. (1971) **5.35** The Common Denominator. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **6.20** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.35** Pip Ahoy! (R) **6.45** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.55** Mio Mao. (R) **7.00** Chloe's Closet. (R) **7.15** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.20** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.35** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.50** Little Princess. (R) **8.00** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **8.15** Zack and Quack. **8.30** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.45** Jelly Jamm. (R) **9.00** LazyTown. (R) **9.30** Dora and Friends. (R) **10.00** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.35** Cowboy Builders & Bodge Jobs. (R) **11.25** Cowboy Builders & Bodge Jobs. (R) **12.20** Ultimate Police Interceptors. (R) **1.20 Film:** Blue Streak. (1996) Comedy, starring Martin Lawrence. **3.05 Film:** Zathura: A Space Adventure. (2005) Family sci-fi adventure, starring Josh Hutcherson and Jonah Bobo. **5.00 Film:** Holes. (2003) Family adventure, starring Shia LaBeouf.
7.05 5 News Weekend.
7.10 Film: Legally Blonde. (2001) A seemingly dizzy teenager is heartbroken when her boyfriend dumps her because he thinks she is not intelligent enough to help his political career. To prove him wrong she enrols at Harvard, but finds herself out of her depth as other students do their best to humiliate her. Comedy, starring Reese Witherspoon, Luke Wilson, Selma Blair, Matthew Davis and Victor Garber. Edited for language.
9.00 Film: Resident Evil: Afterlife. (2010) Premiere. Zombie-fighting heroine Alice roams the post-apocalyptic wasteland searching for human survivors. An encounter with an old friend leads her to a rumoured sanctuary in Los Angeles, but she discovers she has walked into a deadly trap and must once again battle the hordes of the living dead. Action horror sequel, starring Milla Jovovich, Ali Larter and Wentworth Miller.
11.05 Film: Gamer. (2009) A convict is forced to take part in a violent real-life video game using mind-control technology, but plans to escape. Sci-fi thriller, starring Gerard Butler and Michael C Hall.
12.45 Jackass. (R) **1.15** SuperCasino. Live interactive gaming. **3.10** GPs: Behind Closed Doors. Dr Opong sees a patient who is terrified he might have cancer. (R) **4.00** House Doctor. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **5.15** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Live Diving. Coverage of the World Series event in London. **8.05 Film:** Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull (2008) **10.00** Tatau **10.45** Family Guy **11.30** American Dad! **11.55** Family Guy **12.15** Tatau **1.00** Teen Model Factory: Reggie Yates' Extreme Russia **1.55** Killer Magic **2.25** Flat TV **2.45** Tatau **3.30** Killer Magic **4.00** Close
BBC Four
7.00 10 Things You Didn't Know About Tsunamis **8.00** National Gallery: A Film by Frederick Wiseman **10.55** Imagine – Rod Stewart: Can't Stop Me Now **12.20** Rod Stewart at the BBC **1.20** BBC Young Dancer 2015 **2.20** 10 Things You Didn't Know About Tsunamis **3.20** Close
ITV2
12.00 Take Me Out **1.10** Scorpion **2.05 Film:** Scooby-Doo (2002) **3.55 Film:** Homeward Bound II: Lost in San Francisco (1996) **5.40** Britain's Got Talent **7.00** Britain's Got More Talent **8.00** You've Been Framed! Yearbook **9.00 Film:** Knocked Up (2007) **11.35 Film:** The Bourne Ultimatum (2007) **1.45** Mom **2.30** Teleshopping
ITV3
11.55 Wycliffe **1.00 Film:** Columbo: Lady in Waiting (1971) **2.40** Lewis **4.45** A Touch of Frost **6.50** Inspector Morse **9.00** The Best of the Royal Variety **10.00** Wycliffe **11.10 Film:** The Color Purple (1985) **2.05** Secret Smile **3.20** ITV3 Nightscreen **3.40** Emmerdale
ITV4
11.50 Pawn Stars **12.45 Film:** Tobruk (1967) **3.00** Cycling: Tour de Yorkshire Live. Coverage of the third and final stage of the inaugural race. **5.00** Storage Wars **6.00** Storage Wars: Texas **7.00** Cycling: Tour de Yorkshire **8.00 Film:** Police Academy 3: Back in Training (1986) **9.45 Film:** National Lampoon's Vacation (1983) **11.50 Film:** Buried (2010) **1.40** I Want That Car **2.30** Whisker Wars **2.55** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping
E4
12.00 Made in Chelsea **1.00** Revenge **2.00** Jane the Virgin **3.00** The Goldbergs **4.00** The Big Bang Theory **8.00 Film:** St Trinian's (2007) **10.00** The IT Crowd **11.00** The Inbetweeners **12.10** Rude Tube **1.15** Virtually Famous
Film4
11.00 Carry On Up the Khyber (1968) **1.00** Mighty Joe Young (1998) **3.15** Judy Moody and the Not Bummer Summer (2011) **5.00** Jumper (2008) **6.45** Multiplicity (1996) **9.00** Men in Black 3 (2012) **11.10** Monsters (2010) **1.00** 20,000 Days on Earth (2014) **3.10** Close

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
Lord of War, Channel 5, 10.55pm
A Ukrainian immigrant in New York sells guns to local mobsters, and when he gains access to a vast supply of Soviet weaponry at the end of the Cold War he expands his operation overseas – but makes the mistake of doing business with an African warlord. Thriller, starring Nicolas Cage, Ethan Hawke, Jared Leto, Bridget Moynahan, Eamonn Walker and Ian Holm. (2005)

TUESDAY
=Far and Away, Channel 5, 11pm
Penniless Irish farmer Joseph seeks revenge on the cruel landowner who drove him from his home. However, the landlord's daughter, desperate to escape her family, persuades him to join her in seeking their fortune in America. Romantic drama set in the 1890s, starring Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman. (1992)

Dante's Peak, Friday, ITV, 10.50pm

WEDNESDAY
A Few Best Men, BBC1, 11.20pm
An Englishman falls in love with a woman he meets on holiday in Australia, and asks her to marry him. However, he then makes the mistake of bringing three friends over to be his best men. Comedy, starring Xavier Samuel, Laura Brent and Kris Marshall. (2011)

THURSDAY
Kinky Boots, BBC2, 10.30pm
A man inherits a struggling shoe factory, but salvation arrives when a Soho cabaret singer comes up with a plan for the business to manufacture specialist footwear for drag artists. However, the stunned workforce has to be won over, and the new designs prove their worth at a high-profile fashion show. Comedy drama, starring Chiwetel Ejiofor. (2005)

FRIDAY
Dante's Peak, ITV, 10.50pm
A vulcanologist's suspicions that a long-dormant volcano is about to erupt turn out to be true, prompting him to race against time to save the community standing in its way – and clash with local government officials. Disaster movie, starring Pierce Brosnan and Linda Hamilton. (1997)

Shocking case leaves a race against time

Do we really need another new police drama? Well, it if it's written by Paul Abbott, the man who gave us Shameless and State of the Play, then yes, we probably do.

He certainly thinks that his new series, No Offence, is filling a gap in the TV market.

The writer explains: "No Offence came after searching for a concept that would match a Shameless landscape, which is enormous. I love cop shows, I love comedies, and nobody has found a blended set of ingredients that make that work and feel like the cop series I wanted to make."

Before fans of E4's import Brooklyn Nine-Nine start raising objections, Abbott makes it clear that his series can't really be called a sitcom.

"No Offence is proudly a procedural drama, but it's not what I started writing. I thought we were getting away with writing a comedy in my head, but it was just too big and eventually it got squeezed all the way back down to near real life but not real life – it's heightened by two millimetres – and I think it is those two millimetres that define the personality of No Offence.

"You can't call it a comedy, as it's as dark as can be… and it gets darker and darker."

He adds: "No Offence is trying to fit a square peg in a round hole and we've done it beautifully, with a set of ingredients that don't look like they should belong together, but they do."

As it's no ordinary police show, it makes sense that the team are no ordinary coppers. Led by the very capable, but slightly unhinged DI Vivienne Deering (Joanna Scanlan), and her right-hand women DC Dinah Kowalska (Elaine Cassidy) and DS Joy Freers (Alexandra Roach), they work some very mean streets, which would leave lesser officers considering a change of career, but they largely take in their stride.

Abbott says: "I love watching people being good at their job. I remember I used to watch Casualty when all they did was complain about the agency nurses and I'd shout 'go get another job.' I don't want to watch people moaning about their occupation on TV – it's like being haunted by your eight-hour shift isn't it?"

However, in this first episode, it looks like even this apparently unshockable team – which also includes Will Mellor as DC Spike Tanner and Colin Salmon as Det Supt Darren Maclaren – are about to be confronted with one of their most difficult case as Kowalska notices a pattern connecting the deaths of two young women. It seems the team could be dealing with a serial killer – and a third girl has gone missing…

Again, it may not sound original, but that's not really the point.

Abbott says: "I don't write for shock value. I think all crimes have been seen on television before, whether on the News At Ten or in a drama. But No Offence isn't about whether you've seen them before, it's about the attitude towards them. We've done it with such dignity and humanity."

Will Mellor stars in No Offence, Tuesday, Channel 4, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
How the Other Half Eat
Channel 4, 7.30pm
Food shopping these days isn't simply a case of nipping down to the supermarket and picking up whatever takes your fancy. Instead, there's a startling array of products on offer, from no frills items that may lack a little finesse, to the most expensive, top-of-the-range produce whose packaging is almost a work of art in itself. And then there's a heap of stuff in between. This new series follows two families who live close to each other, but whose shopping and eating habits are miles apart. They change places for four days, during which they'll sample the food usually eaten by each other's families. Once the experiment is over, we'll discover whether they go back to their old ways, or change their approach for good.

VE Day: Remembering Victory
BBC1, 8.30pm
On Friday May 8, it will be 70 years since Winston Churchill announced the Second World War in Europe was over, prompting Britain to throw the biggest street party the country has ever seen. David Attenborough, Bruce Forsyth, Miriam Margolyes and June Whitfield are just a few of the well-known figures sharing their memories of the end of the conflict. Narrated by Julie Walters, with contributions from others including Johnny Ball, Honor Blackman, Jilly Cooper, John Craven, Cleo Laine, Kenny Lynch, Michael Parkinson, Leslie Phillips, Anne Reid, Esther Rantzen, Patrick Stewart and Una Stubbs. VE Day: Live from the Cenotaph is on Friday on BBC One at 2.45pm.

TUESDAY
24 Hours in the Past
BBC1, 9pm
Living reality documentary in which six celebrities experience the working lives of the poor in Victorian times. There's no rest for the unlucky volunteers after the filth of the dustyard as they are sent to work at a recreated coaching inn – the 19th-century equivalent of the motorway service station. Alistair McGowan, Ann Widdecombe, Zoe Lucker, Colin Jackson, Tyger Drew-Honey and Miquita Oliver find themselves constantly against the clock as there are horses to be groomed, coaches to be cleaned, guests to be fed, sheets to be laundered and chamber pots to be emptied. Will they all have the stamina to survive the long hours and relentless grind - especially with two further days to go?

24 Hours in the Past, Tuesday, BBC1, 9pm

WEDNESDAY
Inspector George Gently
BBC1, 8pm
All good things must come to an end, but that idea won't make it any easier for Gently to deal with losing Bacchus. His right-hand man has finally been promoted, which means he will need a new sergeant. But for now, Gently's attention is taken by an investigation into the discovery of a female GP's corpse on the moors. She suffered from mood swings and motor neurone disease, which makes the detective's colleagues think she committed suicide, but Gently is convinced she was murdered – and her estranged husband becomes the prime suspect. Feisty WPC Rachel Coles grew up in the area covered by the GP's practice, and helps with the inquiry – surely she would make the ideal replacement for Bacchus?

THURSDAY
Shark
BBC1, 8.55pm
New series. Wildlife documentary venturing below the waves to examine the ocean predators' behaviour. The first film reveals their many different hunting methods, from blacktip sharks gathering in huge packs and herding fish into baitballs, to tasselled wobbegongs, which ambush their prey. Other highlights include Greenland sharks, which live under the arctic ice, whitetip reef sharks – arguably the masters of night-time hunting – and the great white, shown stalking fur seals off the coast of South Africa.

FRIDAY
Secrets of Great British Castles
Channel 5, 8pm
Dan Jones explores the history of Carrickfergus Castle in Co Antrim, one of the most ancient castles in Northern Ireland and a stronghold key to understanding the tempestuous relationship between Britain and Ireland. Dan travels to Rathlin island, where he reveals how hundreds of women and children were massacred in the name of Elizabeth I, and visits the tomb of former governor Arthur Chichester, who began a new colonisation strategy using scorched earth tactics and laid waste to much of the land surrounding the town.

2015 DAY TRIPS

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Sat 16th Sat 23rd
Mon 25th Sat 30th
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Sat 2nd May
Weston-Super-Mare
Mon 4th May
Mon 25th May
Southport
Mon 4th May
Waterworld (Stoke)

Sat 9th May
Severn Valley Railway 50th Anniversary "Peppa Pig and Daddy Pig"
Sun 10th May
Haworth 1940s Weekend
Sat 16th
Alton Towers
Sun 17th
Liverpool Docks
Tues 26th
Chester or Chester Zoo
Weds 27th

JUNE
Blackpool
Sat 6th Sat 13th
Sat 20th Sat 27th
Rhyl
Sat 6th Sat 20th Sat 27th
Weston-Super-Mare
Sat 27th
Clarks Village Outlet
Sat 13th

JULY
Blackpool
Sat 4th Sat 11th
Sat 18th Sat 25th
Cheshire Oak (Shopper)
Sat 4th
Kent Bluewater Centre
Sat 11th
Barmouth, Wales
Sat 18th
Southport
Thu 23rd
Rhyl or Llandudno
Sat 25th
Southend On Sea
Mon 27th
Cotswold - Bourton On The Water
Mon 27th
Chester or Chester Zoo
Weds 29th
Great Yarmouth
Weds 29th
Cheddar Gorge
Thurs 30th
Windsor Castle

Fri 31st
Stoke-Trentham Monkey Forest-Waterworld
Fri 31st

AUGUST
Blackpool
Sat 1st Weds 5th
Sat 15th Sun 16th
Sat 22nd
Sat 29th Mon 31st
Lake Windermere
Sat 1st
Bournemouth
Mon 3rd
Drayton Manor
Mon 3rd
Twycross Zoo
Weds 5th
Weston Super Mare
Thurs 6th Mon 10th
Weds 19th Mon 31st
Bath
Thurs 6th
Barry Island
Mon 10th
Barmouth

Weds 12th
Chester or Chester Zoo
Disneyland Paris
Fri 14th - Sun 16th
Sat 15th
Severn Valley Railway 50th Anniversary Sounds of the 60s
Sat 15th
Brighton
Sun 16th
Warner Bros. Studio Tour
Mon 17th
Leicester Space Centre
Mon 17th
Cotswolds
Tues 18th
Weymouth Carnival
Weds 19th
London Short Tour and Buckingham Palace
Fri 21st
Rhyl
Sat 22nd
Sat 29th
Margate

Mon 24th
Peak District
Tues 25th
Legoland/ Windsor Castle
Tues 25th
Porthmadog
Weds 26th
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Thurs 27th
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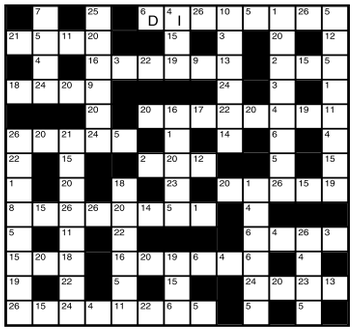
BRAIN GYM No.317

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



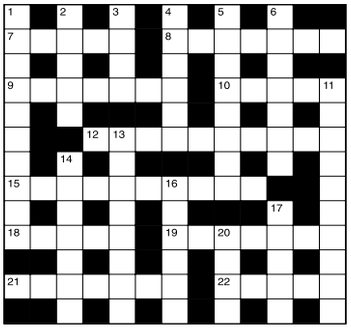
1	14
2	15
3	16
4 I	17
5	18
6 D	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
J	B	Q	I	R	K	N	F	G	S	U	P	E
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
T	M	Y	H	D	O	X	C	W	L	A	V	Z

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.



Cryptic Clues:

Across

7. The way the tour is diverted to the East (5)
8. Becomes snarled up at corner in back-street (7)
9. An insult to a seaside promenade, we hear (7)
10. The French travel south to Nigerian port (5)
12. You could find these right in the main shopping centre (4,6)
15. Right-handed key (6,4)
18. This coin was a sovereign (5)
19 & 13Dn. This will deceive the pupils (7,8)
21. Individual after different name for a flower (7)
22. Get to the bottom and connect the pipe-line (5)

Down

1. Normal, neat decorative arrangement (10)
2. They went round the necks of thugs, we hear (5)
3. Famous fiddler in Stainer oratorio (4)
4. What the needle produces is an acute pain (6)
5. Take out of gear (8)
6. Did some signalling, but became weary (7)
11. Complete black suit needed by one who goes round the course (3,2,5)
13. See 19 Across
14. Declines to put rubbish on the top of the scrap-heap (7)
16. Mob round the East whooped in triumph (6)
17. Show disdain for one who reconnoitres (5)
20. Betty Perkins to do some secretarial work inside (4)

Quick Clues:

Across

7. Precept (5)
8. Flood (7)
9. A month (7)
10. Sugary (5)
12. Affirm (10)
15. Emphasise (10)
18. Lock (5)
19. Relations (7)
21. Dirty (7)
22. Goodbye (5)

Down

1. Book-keeper (10)
2. Join (5)
3. Door handle (4)
4. Famish (6)
5. Expectation (8)
6. Indefinite (7)
11. Huge (10)
13. Ominous (8)
14. Shriek (7)
16. Harsh (6)
17. Coach (5)
20. Tidy (4)

Sudoku

7	9			5		2		
	3			9			4	5
		8	1					3
6			8		5	9		
5		1					3	8
		9	4					6
					7	8		
8	2			3			7	
		7		8			1	4

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

4	9	8	2	3	5	1	7	6
7	6	1	9	8	4	5	3	2
5	2	3	6	1	7	9	8	4
6	4	7	5	2	3	8	1	9
9	8	2	4	7	1	3	6	5
3	1	5	8	9	6	4	2	7
2	5	9	3	6	8	7	4	1
8	7	4	1	5	2	6	9	3
1	3	6	7	4	9	2	5	8

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Restraint; 8 Air; 9 Incantation; 11 Artiste; 12 Posts; 13 Canvas; 15 Prefer; 17 Avast; 18 Celsius; 20 Tuition fees; 22 Ewe; 23 Elephants. Down: 2 Eon; 3 Rings; 4 Images; 5 Tripper; 6 Sands of time; 7 Treasures; 10 Cotoneaster; 11 Archangel; 14 Astride; 16 Scribe; 19 Lunch; 21 Eat. QUICK - Across: 1 Prostrate; 8 Let; 9 Storm-signal; 11 Builder; 12 Baste; 13 Idiocy; 15 Repose; 17 Knave; 18 Patriot; 20 Intercepted; 22 Set; 23 Respected. Down: 2 Rat; 3 Timid; 4 Aviary; 5 Ennoble; 6 Illusionist; 7 Statement; 10 Originality; 11 Briskness; 14 Creator; 16 Sports; 19 Theme; 21 Ere.

Thinking space

Quiz

1. Who is credited with discovering penicillin in 1928?
2. In which country are the Queen's bodyguards the Royal Company of Archers?
3. What was IRA man Dominic McGlinchey's nickname?
4. Who wrote Strangers on a Train?
5. Which bird has honey and rough-legged varieties?
6. Which country was formerly known as the Gold Coast?
7. Which skier is known as La Bomba?
8. Who wrote Our Man in Havana?
9. Which river divides Kentish Men from Men of Kent?
10. Which composer's Adagietto from his 5th Symphony was used in the film Death In Venice?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Henry VIII; 2 James Herriot; 3 Essex; 4 Rene Descartes; 5 Grandsons; 6 Wild pansy; 7 Heroin; 8 Daniel Radcliffe; 9 Robinson Crusoe; 10 Inter Milan.

Niner: UNLOCATED

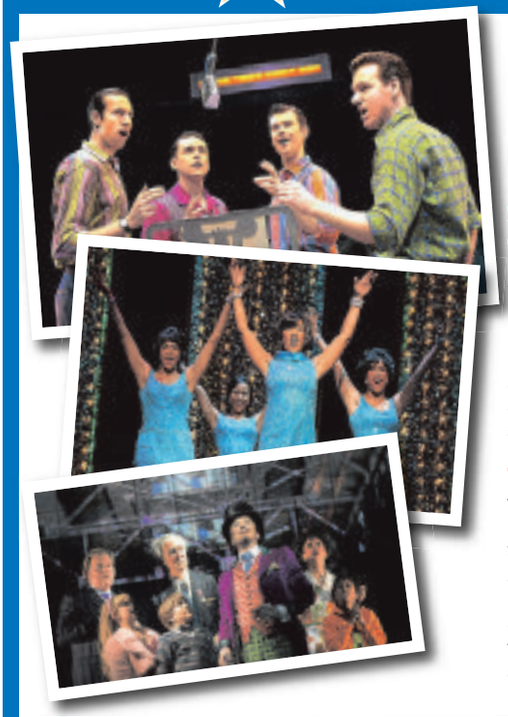
Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

578 gives a nocturnal mammal,
98678 gives a kind of weasel,
31249 gives insects.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

star extra TRAVEL London Theatre Breaks



Choose your show, price band* and how you want to travel

Rail inclusive breaks – Two or three days

Departures most weekends

Saturday Night Theatre from £159.95

Catch the Theatre Express and enjoy a super two-day weekend break in the capital. There's a choice of London hotels and your ticket is for a Saturday evening performance.

Rail travel is standard class with the option to upgrade. Departs Saturday morning/early afternoon from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton, returning on the Sunday afternoon/early evening to give plenty of free time for shopping and sightseeing.

Theatre Showstopper from £229.95

This popular theatre package to the West End departs from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton on the Friday morning returning on the Sunday afternoon/early evening.

Standard class travel is included with the option to upgrade plus two nights stay at a four-star London hotel of your choice (hotel supplements may apply). Includes a top priced ticket for a Friday evening performance.

Coach inclusive breaks – Two days

Selected weekend departures

Saturday Night from £139.95

Theatre Weekend with Dinner from £149.95

Take in a top West End show and have some free time in London for shopping and sightseeing.

For the Theatre Weekend with Dinner option see the matinee performance before heading to the hotel for an evening meal. The Saturday Night option includes a ticket for the show to see an evening performance.

Both breaks include a theatre ticket, overnight stay in a four-star outer London hotel plus full English breakfast.

Pick-up points offered are Dudley, Shrewsbury, Telford, Walsall and Wolverhampton.

**The "from" price and price bands vary for each show – see brochure for details. Single rooms subject to availability – supplements apply.*

Organised by Omega Events Ltd (ABTA Y590X)

For a theatre brochure please call the promotions team on (01902) 319999 (Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm), or go to shropshirestar.com/starextratravel

Please read brochure/web page for full information plus terms and conditions

A well-maintained and nicely presented home

AN incredibly well presented and very well maintained traditional three-bedroomed bay-fronted home in Devon Road, Bearwood is close to Warley Woods and Lightwoods Park.

It is for sale through Connells at £270,000.

With majority gas central heating and double glazing and decorated in neutral shades throughout, it has an entrance hall, an attractive lounge with a bay window and a feature fireplace, a dining room with a gas fire and under-stairs storage cupboard, a kitchen/breakfast room with a white units and contrasting working surfaces, splashback tiling and a gas hob and electric oven with cooker hood, three bedrooms (one with exposed floorboards and a built-in radiator), a tiled bathroom with a bath with a shower. Call Connells on 0121 4203611 or visit www.connells.co.uk

Accommodation is set over three floors

THIS traditional and very appealing five-bedroomed semi-detached house on Hollies Drive, Wednesbury has highly deceptive accommodation.

It is for sale through Goodchilds at offers over £185,000. With double glazing and gas central heating it has an entrance hall with a cellar off, three reception rooms (comprising two lounge/sitting rooms with fireplaces and a dining room with a stunning large fireplace), a kitchen with quarry tile flooring and a door to the garden, a pine turned staircase to the upper levels, three first floor bedrooms, a dressing room and a bathroom, two second floor loft bedrooms and a big rear garden. Call Goodchilds on 0121 5067670 or visit www.goodchilds-uk.com

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Thimblemill Road, SMETHWICK,
VIEWING RECOMMENDED
Extended family home comprising, two reception rooms, refitted kitchen, shower room, conservatory, three bedrooms, refitted family bathroom, D/G and C/H, front and rear gardens, garage, driveway
Offers Around £154,950

Mr and Mrs P First Time Buyers Looking for a 3 Bedroom property up to £180,000 Bearwood/Oldbury Joined by like to live within a walking distance to Warley Woods
CAN YOU HELP?

Wolverhampton Road South, QUINTON,
Semi detached property comprising, porch, hallway, reception room, breakfast/kitchen, conservatory, utility room, three bedrooms, family bathroom, double glazed, centrally heated, front & rear gardens. IDEAL FIRST PURCHASE!
Offers Around £140,000

Mr and Mrs P First Time Buyers Looking for a 3 Bedroom property up to £180,000 Bearwood/Oldbury Joined by like to live within a walking distance to Warley Woods
CAN YOU HELP?

Florence Road, SMETHWICK,
NEW
Terraced property offered with no onward chain comprising, two reception rooms, fitted kitchen, ground floor bathroom with separate shower, two double bedrooms, centrally heated, front & rear gardens. IDEAL INVESTMENT OR FIRST TIME BUY!
Offers Around £89,950

Mr & Mrs O Looking for a 2 - 3 bedroom Property located in BEARWOOD UPTO £185,000 MAX READY TO VIEW AND OFFER CALL NOW 0121 420 1010
CAN YOU HELP?

Milcote Road, BEARWOOD,
SSTC
●BRAND NEW TO THE MARKET - UPDATED 3 BEDROOM● The property has recently undergone a refurbishment, Comprising of entrance hall, through lounge, fitted kitchen, three bedrooms and bathroom, D/G & CH where specified.
Offers Around £185,000

Gillott Road, EDGBASTON,
SSTC
Semi detached property in desirable location comprising, hallway, two reception rooms, refitted kitchen, utility, three bedrooms, refitted family bathroom, double glazed & centrally heated, front & rear gardens, driveway
Offers Around £194,950

Sabell Road, SMETHWICK,
SSTC
Terraced property comprising, two reception rooms, fitted kitchen, ground floor bathroom, two double bedrooms, centrally heated, front & rear gardens. IDEAL FIRST PURCHASE OR INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY! NO UPWARD CHAIN!
Offers Around £89,950

Hugh Road, SMETHWICK,
SSTC
Semi detached property comprising, porch, hallway, through lounge, refitted kitchen, three bedrooms, refitted bathroom, D/G and C/H, driveway, rear garden. VIEWING HIGHLY RECOMMENDED!
Offers Around £150,000

The Oval, SMETHWICK,
SSTC
Semi detached property comprising reception room, refitted dining kitchen, cloakroom, three bedrooms, upstairs bathrooms, driveway, front and rear gardens, double glazed and centrally heated where specified, internal viewing recommended.
Offers Around £124,950

Farm Road, SMETHWICK,
SSTC
Well maintained semi detached property with no onward chain comprising, hallway, reception room, kitchen/diner, cloakroom, three bedrooms, refitted bathroom, D/G and C/H, front and rear gardens. IDEAL FIRST PURCHASE!
Offers Around £119,950

Mrs and Mrs B First time buyers URGENTLY REQUIRE 2/3 Bed Terrace Upto £165,000 Keen to View and offer ASAP
CAN YOU HELP?

Lower City Road, TIVIDALE,
Immaculately maintained family home comprising, entrance hallway, two reception rooms, fitted kitchen, W.C, three bedrooms, Family Bathroom, D/G and C/H (Where Specified), rear garden. Ideal first time purchase
Offers Around £145,000

Mr and Mrs P First Time Buyers Looking for a 3 Bedroom property up to £180,000 Bearwood/Oldbury Joined by like to live within a walking distance to Warley Woods
CAN YOU HELP?

Thimblemill Road, BEARWOOD,
VIEWING RECOMMENDED
Well presented terraced property in desirable location, close to amenities comprising, two reception rooms, fitted kitchen, two double bedrooms, refitted upstairs bathroom, centrally heated & part double glazed, front & rear gardens. IDEAL FIRST PURCHASE!
Offers Around £122,950

Mr & Mrs K First time buyers URGENTLY REQUIRE 2/3 Bedroom up to £250,000 IN BEARWOOD Keen to view and offer ASAP 0121 420 10 10
CAN YOU HELP?

Montague Road, SMETHWICK,
REDUCED
Mid terraced property offered with no onward chain comprising, porch, two reception rooms, fitted kitchen, ground floor bathroom, three bedrooms, D/G and C/H, front and rear gardens, parking space.
Offers Around £104,950

Offices at:
12 Abbey Road, Bearwood, B67 5RD 33-35 Cape Hill, Smethwick, B66 4RX

Find a Property.com DPS rightmove Zoopla

Village cottage features include sun trap at back

THIS delightful two-bedroomed cottage in High Street, Belbroughton lies directly opposite the village green in a conservation area.

It is for sale through The Lee Shaw Partnership at £229,500. With gas central heating and double glazing it has two bedrooms, a stylish re-fitted shower room and lounge with a multi-fuel stove, tiled floor an open plan dining kitchen area with cream units, dishwasher, oven, hob, fridge/freezer and washer/dryer. The courtyard garden is currently decorated with pots and is a lovely place to sit in the sun. For further information contact The Lee Shaw Partnership on 01562 888111 or visit www.leeshaw.com

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www.bartrams.com

BAGNALL STREET, B70 6PN

- A Detached Property,Three bedrooms
- Three Reception Rooms
- Central Heating
- Double Garage, Driveway,

£249,950

MORRISON ROAD, DY4 7PX

- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms, No Upward Chain
- Two Reception Rooms
- Central Heating, Freehold
- EPC Rating D

£109,950

SQUIRES WALK, WS10 9DB

- A Semi Detached Property
- Sought After Location
- Central Heating & Double Glazing
- Freehold, Garage & Driveway
- EPC Rating D

£249,950

CRANKHALL LANE, WS10 0DY

- An End Terraced Property
- Two Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Central Heating
- EPC RATING E

£99,950

SHERIDAN STREET, B71 4EF

- A Mid Terrace Property
- Two/Three Bedroomed
- Two Reception Rooms
- Downstairs Shower Room
- EPC RATING F, Freehold

£99,950

HILLARY AVENUE, WS10 0HE

- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Front And Rear Gardens
- Lounge, Off Road Parking
- EPC RATING D, Freehold

£124,950

WESTMORE WAY, WS10 0TR

- A Link Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Conservatory
- Double Glazed & Central Heating
- EPC RATING D, Freehold

£149,950

HYDES ROAD, WS10 0DF

- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Central Heating
- Garage, Off Road Parking To Rear
- EPC RATING E, Freehold

£119,950

Goldfield Court, Dartmouth Street,

- A Second Floor Apartment
- Double Glazing
- Two Bedrooms
- Over 50's Residential Living
- Leasehold, EPC Rating B

£22,950 25% Shared Ownership

WALSALL ROAD, B71 3JD

- A Terraced Property
- Three Bedrooms
- External Double Glazing
- Central Heating

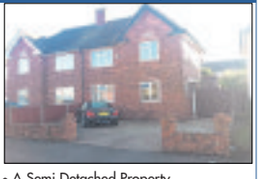
£109,950

POMMEL CLOSE, WS5 4QE

- A Ground Floor Flat
- Two Bedrooms
- Central Heating, Double Glazed
- Conservatory
- EPC RATING C, Leasehold

£78,950

REMEMBRANCE ROAD, WS10 0TE



- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Central Heating & Double Glazed
- Conservatory
- EPC RATING D, Freehold

£139,950

REFORM STREET, B70 7PE

- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Majority Double Glazed
- EPC TBC Freehold

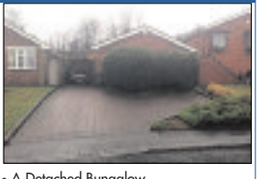
£159,950

KELVERLEY GROVE, B71 3QL

- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Garage & Driveway
- Central Heating & Double Glazed
- EPC RATING D, Freehold

Offers In Excess Of £140,000

WYNDMILL CRESCENT, B71 3RB



- A Detached Bungalow
- Two Bedrooms
- Majority Double Glazed
- Central Heating, Conservatory
- EPC TBC, Freehold

£184,950

HEATH LANE, B71 2BW

- A Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Extended
- Through Lounge
- EPC RATING E, Freehold

£203,950

HOPKINS DRIVE, B71 3RR

- A Detached Bungalow
- Three Bedrooms
- Central Heating
- Majority Double Glazed
- EPC RATING D, Freehold

£220,000

CHURCH VALE, B71 4DD

- A Detached Bungalow
- Three Bedrooms
- Planning For Extension
- Freehold, No Upward Chain
- EPC TBC, Corner Plot

£249,950

SAMS LANE, B70 7EG

- A Terraced Property
- Two Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Credit Check Required
- £450 PCM

£450 DEPOSIT PLUS OTHER FEES

SAMS LANE, B70 7EG

- A Terraced Property
- Two Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Double Glazing And Central Heating
- Freehold

£99,000

CANTERBURY ROAD, B71 2LB

- A Semi Detached Property
- Two Bedrooms
- Electric Heating
- Double Glazing
- EPC RATING D, Freehold

£95,000

WALSALL STREET LAND, WS10 9EN

- Land For Sale
- Development Land
- With Outline Consent For Residential Use
- Situated On Town Centre Outskirts

WAS £50,000 NOW £45,000

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Victorian home is so handy for city centre

AN elegant Victorian semi-detached home, 7 Paget Road, Off Tettenhall Road, Wolverhampton lies within easy reach of the city centre.

It is for sale through Bartlams at £209,050.

Having a spacious layout with original character features and modern appointments, this home has two interlinking living and dining rooms (each with a distinctive fireplace and the sitting room with a bay window and dining room with French doors), breakfast room/study, 18ft kitchen, garden room, three first floor bedrooms, a shower room, second floor master bedroom with a bathroom en suite.

There is gas central heating, majority double glazing, forecourt parking and a paved and planted rear garden with a southerly aspect.

For further information contact Bartlams on 01902 762900 or visit www.bartlams.co.uk

Refurbished home is ideal first time buy

HAVING undergone a full scheme of refurbishment, this traditional three-bedroomed semi-detached home in Romsey Road, Fordhouses, Wolverhampton is ideal for the first time buyer.

It is for sale through Connells at £135,000 with no chain.

With off road parking and a good-sized garden it has a canopy porch, entrance hall, lounge, dining room, re-fitted kitchen, three bedrooms and a re-fitted bathroom.

It has been rewired, re-plastered, has a new kitchen and new bathroom and has been re-carpeted and re-floored.

For further information contact Connells on 01902 710170 or visit www.connells.co.uk

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Photograph of a Kier showhome interior. Elevations and finishes may vary. *Help to Buy is available upon request subject to terms and conditions.

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21,460 sq.ft
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• Secure Yard
• Estate CCTV Security

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1,500-9,291 sq.ft
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Connells

Help to Buy

GREEN HOMES SCHEME IS UNDER WAY

Connells Estate agents are launching The Oaks Show Home where 32 New Eco Homes are being built on the Gospel Oak Road, Tipton.

The Oaks Development is being constructed by Wrekin Eco Homes who are incorporating innovative ideas to bring Energy Saving Idea's to reduce your house hold running costs.

The Oaks first phase consists of Eight, 3 Bed Semi Detached homes with Garage's fronting onto the Gospel Oak Road. The Show Home is now open with plots available for reservation with exchange within 6 weeks from £179,995.

The next phase of homes will consist of Fourteen 2 and 3 bed homes which will be available on early bird reservations and start from £129,995 with completions late 2015. A final 3 story block of 9 Spacious 2 Bed Apartments will then be available in 2016 all featuring the Eco Features.

All the properties are designed from the floor up to featuring the Best Eco Friendly Products on the market from Increased Insulation, Triple Glazing, Eco Extraction, High Efficient Boilers and also Under Floor Heating with Weather Compensation Technology.

All properties are available on the Help to Buy Scheme, Connells Branch Manager Amanda Brookes said "We are very excited to be selling the New Homes at the Oaks. Not only will we be selling them a stylish new home but also cutting their energy bills using the latest eco idea's"

For Details on the Oaks Development please call Connells in Wednesbury on 0121 556 2338.

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Modern detached home is deceptively spacious

A DECEPTIVELY spacious modern detached, The Woods, Rectory Gardens, Hartlebury has generous living space, set in a delightful enclave close to the centre of the village.

It is for sale through Allan Morris at £429,950. It has a lounge, breakfast kitchen/family room, dining room, study/bedroom four, utility, three first floor bedrooms and an en suite bathroom, two further bathrooms and a first floor play den/hobbies room.

The living accommodation has been extended and considerably improved and provides a very well proportioned and attractively presented family home.

For details contact 01562 747755 or visit www.allan-morris.co.uk

Stylish residence is priced at £294,950

SUPERBLY presented, Holly Tree Cottage in Sandyfields Road, Sedgley is a residence of style and elegance.

It is for sale through Rodens at £294,950.

With double glazing and gas central heating it has a lounge with an attractive open fireplace, sitting room with French doors out to the garden, study with French doors, dining room with laminate flooring, kitchen with modern light-wood-effect units and black and white splash-back tiling, utility, three bedrooms (one with a fitted wardrobe), a bathroom with a white suite including a free-standing roll top bath and contemporary shower cubicle.

Contact Rodens on 01902 881188 or visit www.rodenestates.com

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TIPTON

Andrew Road
Three bedroom property, spacious lounge, double glazed, storage heating, first floor bathroom, unfurnished.
£550

TIPTON

Whitehouse Street
2 bedroom town house, lounge, kitchen with dining area, central heated and double glazed, first floor bathroom, seperate w.c. Available unfurnished.
£500

WEST BROMWICH

Dartmouth Street
Newly refurbished 3 bedroom property, New kitchen and new bathroom, 2 reception rooms, central heated and double glazed, alarmed. must be viewed.
£550

WEST BROMWICH

Vicarge Road
Very spacious 3 bedroom property, large through lounge, central heated and double glazed, first floor bathroom, well maintained large rear garden, off road parking, must be viewed
£590

WEST BROMWICH

Sydney Close
3 bedroom property with spacious lounge, ch and dg. Kitchen with dining space. first floor bathroom. off road parking available unfurnished.
£525

Tipton

Springmeadow
Modern 3 bed semi detached property, good size lounge, downstairs w.c, upstairs bathroom and ensuite to master bedroom. Available unfurnished. Garage and off road parking.
£550

WALSALL / PEL-

Shireview Road
3 bedroom spacious property, large reception room, breakfast kitchen, down stairs w.c and upstairs bathroom, central heated and double glazed, enclosed rear garden, off road parking, available unfurnished.
£550

WEST BROMWICH

Elizabeth Road
Very spacious 3 bedroom house, lounge, dining room, first floor bathroom, central heated and double glazed, off road parking, Unfurnished.
£580

WEST BROMWICH

Wood Lane
3 bedroom end of terrace property, 2 reception rooms, ch and dg. ground floor bathroom with overhead shower. available unfurnished.
£105,000

WEST BROMWICH

Princes Gate
Modern 2 bedroom apartment, near the M5. Large reception room, Double glazed window, storage heating. Communal car park. Security intercom system to entrance. Available unfurnished.
£525

WEST BROMWIVH

Mountbatton Road
Very spacious 1 bedroom apartment in a prime location, good size living room, bedroom, newly fitted kitchen, bathroom with overhead shower, ch and double glazed, designated parking space. Unfurnished.
£450

Tipton

Avern Close
Modern one bedroom apartment, storage heating, double glazed windows, spacious lounge and bedroom, available unfurnished. designated parking space.
£375

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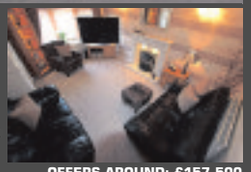
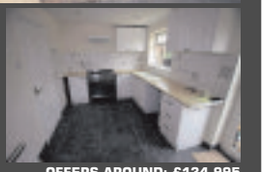
TIPTON FARMER WAY
- A Superior Three Bed Semi Detached House
- Lounge
- Kitchen Diner
- Family Bathroom
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Off Road Parking & Garage
- Double Glazing & Gas Fired Central Heaing
- Freehold



OFFERS AROUND: £157,500

TIPTON SEFTON GROVE
- Modern Three Bedroom Semi Detached House
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Upstairs Family Bathroom
- Low Maintenance Rear Garden
- Off Street Parking For Two Vehicles
- Double Glazed and Gas Fired Central Heating
- No Chain
- Freehold



OFFERS AROUND: £134,995

TIPTON BAKER STREET
- Three Bed Semi Detached Family Home
- Lounge
- Kitchen Diner
- Conservatory
- Upstairs Family Bathroom
- Rear Garden
- Block Paved Drive & Garage
- Double Glazed & Gas Fired Central Heating
- Freehold

OFFERS AROUND: £125,000

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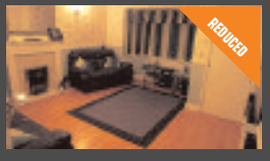
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Master Bedroom
- Cellar
- Rear Garden
- Double Glazed and Gas Fired Central Heating

OFFERS AROUND: £87,500



TIPTON ST MARTINS DRIVE
- A four bedroom detached property
- Lounge, dining room & sitting room
- Fitted kitchen with utility
- Down stairs WC
- En-Siute to master bedroom
- Hot tub in rear garden
- Garage & Driveway
- Rear garden

OFFERS AROUND: £214,950

TIPTON SANNDERS CRESCENT
- A Superior Four Bedroom Modern Family Home
- Lounge
- Dining Room
- Breakfast Kitchen
- Part Brick Conservatory
- Downstairs WC
- En-Suite to Master Bedroom
- Family Bathroom

OFFERS AROUND: £204,950

TIPTON SHEEPWASH LANE
- New Build Four Bedroom Detached Family Home
- Lounge
- Dining Room
- Fitted Kitchen
- Downstairs Shower Room
- Family Bathroom
- Double Glazing & Gas Fired Central Heating
- Block Paved Driveway

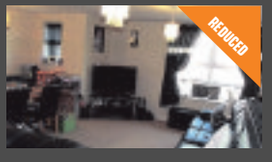
OFFERS AROUND: £169,950

TIPTON GALTON CLOSE
- Three Bed Link Detached Family Home
- Lounge
- Kitchen Diner
- Upstairs Family Bathroom
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Off Road Parking
- Extended Garage
- Cul-de-sac location

OFFERS AROUND: £149,950

TIPTON SEDGLEY ROAD WEST
- Semi detached in established location
- 3 bedrooms
- 2 Receptions
- Off road parking, potential for garage
- Large rear garden
- Ideally placed to all amenities
- No central heating, in need of upgrading

OFFERS AROUND: £99,950

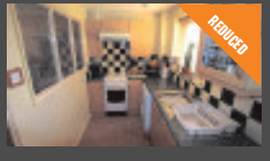


TIPTON JONAH DRIVE
- Beautifully presented and improved apartment
- 2 bedrooms, master fitted
- Large, airy living room / dining area
- Kitchen with appliances
- Bathroom with shower
- Ideally located adjacent to Great Bridge
- Perfect location for motorway network / amenities
- Excellent first purchase or investment property

OFFERS AROUND: £84,950

TIPTON HALL LANE
- Three Bed Mid Terrace Family Home
- Recently Refurbished to a High Standard
- Spacious Lounge Area
- New Fitted Kitchen
- New Fitted Family Bathroom
- Off Street Parking
- Rear Garden
- No Upward Chain

OFFERS AROUND: £82,000



TIPTON SEFTON GROVE
- Modern Extended one bed Mid Terrace House
- Lounge & Dining Room
- Kitchen
- Upstairs Family Bathroom
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Double Glazing and Storage Heating
- Freehold Upon Completion
- Well Maintained and Presented Throughout

OFFERS OVER: £80,000

TIPTON KINGFISHER WAY
- Modern First Floor Apartment
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Bathroom
- Canal Side Views
- Two Allocated Parking Spaces
- Offering Purchase for either 50% or 100% Ownership

OFFERS AROUND: £78,500

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Wolseley Road, West Bromwich

- Semi Detached
- 50% Shared Ownership Scheme
- Upvc Double Glazing ● Gas Central Heating
- 3 bedrooms, EPC C

OFFERS AROUND: £57,500
Viewing:

Thorneycroft Road, Bilston

- Traditional Detached Family Home
- Much Improved Accommodation
- Upvc Double Glazing ● Gas Central Heating
- 3 bedrooms, EPC E

OFFERS AROUND: £145,000
Viewing:

Albert Street, Tipton

- Semi Detached Family Home
- Upvc Double Glazing ● Gas Central Heating
- No Upward Chain
- 3 Bedrooms, EPC D

OFFERS AROUND: £92,995
Viewing:

The Pineways, Oldbury

- Immaculate Ground a Floor Flat
- Upvc Double a Glazing ● Electric Heating
- Improved Attractive Accommodation
- 2 Bedrooms, EPC C

OFFERS AROUND: £82,950
Viewing:

Junction Street, Dudley

- Middle Terrace
- Part Double Glazed
- gas central heating
- 2 Bedrooms, EPC D

OFFERS AROUND: £75,000
Viewing:

Eagle Lane, Tipton

- Modern Detached
- Excellent Corner Plot - potential to extend (STP)
- Upvc Double glazing ● Gas Central Heating
- 4 bedrooms ● ensuite, EPC tbc

OFFERS AROUND: £195,000
Viewing:

Greenacre Road, Tipton

- Beautiful Semi Detached Family Home
- Upvc Double Glazing ● Gas Central Heating
- Superbly Presented Accommodation
- 3 Bedrooms, EPC tbc

OFFERS AROUND: £167,500
Viewing:

Catherton Close, Tipton

- Modern Semi Detached
- Excellent Size Plot (potential to extend STP)
- Upvc Double Glazing ● Gas Central Heating
- 2 Bedrooms, EPC C

OFFERS AROUND: £110,000
Viewing:

Kiniths Way, West Bromwich

- Semi Detached
- Three Bedrooms
- Conservatory
- Double Glazing, Driveway for Two Cars

OFFERS AROUND: £165,000
Viewing:

Dartmouth Street, West Bromwich

- Retirement Apartment
- 25% Shared Ownership
- Second Floor
- , Lounge/Kitchen

OFFERS AROUND: £22,750
Viewing:

Powis Avenue, Tipton

- End Terrace
- Upvc windows ● gas central heating
- no upward chain
- 3 Bedrooms, EPC D

OFFERS AROUND: £84,995
Viewing:

Horseley Road, Tipton

- Beautiful Traditional Detached
- Upvc Double Glazing ● Gas Central Heating
- Spacious Family Accommodation
- 3 Bedrooms, EPC E

OFFERS AROUND: £145,000
Viewing:

Cambridge Street, West Bromwich

- End Terrace
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Lounge/Diner
- , Ground Floor Bathroom

OFFERS AROUND: £85,000
Viewing:

Julia Gardens, West Bromwich

- Semi Detached Bungalow
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Re-Fitted Shower Room
- , Front and Rear Gardens

OFFERS AROUND: £155,000
Viewing:

Lilac Grove, Wednesbury

- Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms (originally two)
- Lounge & Modern Kitchen
- , First Floor Bathroom

OFFERS AROUND: £115,000
Viewing:

Oaktree Road, Wednesbury

- Extended Traditional Semi Detached Home
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- , Modern Kitchen

OFFERS AROUND: £129,950
Viewing:

Berkshire Crescent, Wednesbury

- Well Presented Semi Detached Property
- Two Bedrooms
- First Floor Shower Room
- EPC Rating: C, Kitchen

OFFERS AROUND: £110,000
Viewing:

Wood Street, Wednesbury

- Traditional Mid Terrace Home
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- , Kitchen & Utility Area With WC

OFFERS AROUND: £90,000
Viewing:

Morris Street, West Bromwich

- Semi Detached
- Three Bedrooms
- Lounge/Diner
- , Double Glazing

OFFERS AROUND: £120,000
Viewing:

Dagger Lane, West Bromwich

- Traditional Mid Terrace Property
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Re-fitted First Floor Bathroom
- , Rear Garden

OFFERS AROUND: £110,000
Viewing:

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Doulton Road,Rowley Regis

- Detached Property
- Four Bedrooms
- Double Garage
- Off Road Parking
- Downstairs W.C.
- Living Room

OIRO £219,950

Hollies Drive,Wednesbury

- Three Story
- Traditional Semi-detached house
- Entrance Hallway
- Three Reception Rooms
- Fitted Kitchen
- Five Bedrooms

Offers in Excess of £185,000

Rough Hay Road,Wednesbury

- EXTENDED SEMI DETACHED HOUSE
- THREE STORYS
- ENTRANCE HALLWAY
- KITCHEN/BREAKFAST BAR
- CONSERVATORY
- DOWNSTAIRS W.C

OIRO £179,950

Pitchwood Close,Wednesbury

- Terraced Property
- NO UPWARD CHAIN!
- Three Story
- Three Bedrooms
- Family bathroom
- Kitchen/Diner

OIRO £140,000

Hall Street East,Wednesbury

- MID TERRACE
- THREE BEDROOMS
- TWO BATHROOMS
- KITCHEN
- LOUNGE
- LOUNGE/DINER

£130,000

Romulus Close,Birmingham

- Semi Detached House
- Three Bedrooms
- Large Lounge/Diner
- Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Off Road Parking

OIRO £124,999

Old Park Road,Wednesbury

- Terraced
- Three Bedrooms
- Open Plan Lounge Diner
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
- Downstairs WC
- Family Bathroom

Offers in Excess of £124,950

Tame Street,West Bromwich

- Mid Terrace House
- Two Bedrooms
- Lounge/Diner
- Downstairs WC
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
- Private Parking

Offers in excess of £120,000

Wills Avenue,West Bromwich

- END TERRACED PROPERTY
- THREE BEDROOMS
- ONE RECEPTION ROOM
- GARAGE
- FAMILY BATHROOM
- DOWNSTAIRS W.C.

£120,000

Sheldon Avenue,Wednesbury

- Three Bedrooms
- End Terrace
- Fully Refurbished
- Low Maintenance Garden
- Modern Fitted Kitchen
- Lounge

OIRO £119,950

Coneygree Road,Tipton

- SEMI DETACHED
- ENTRANCE PORCH
- THREEE BEDROOMS
- RE STYLED KITCHEN
- DOWNSTAIRS SHOWER ROOM
- FRONT GARDEN

Offers in Excess of £110,000

Salter Road,Tipton

- MID TERRACE
- THREE BEDROOM
- KITCHEN/DINER
- MODERN FITTED BATHROOM
- ENTRANCE HALLWAY
- REAR GARDEN
- OFF ROAD PARKING
- DG & GCH

Offers in Excess of £105,000

Howard Street,Tipton

- Semi Detached Bungalow
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Spacious Lounge
- Shower Room
- Re-Styled Kitchen
- Large Side Entrance Porch

£99,995

Toll End Road,Tipton

- Terraced Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Two reception rooms
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Rear Garden

OIRO £99,950

Garrington Street,Wednesbury

- Terraced house
- Darlaston area
- Entrance hallway
- Lounge
- Dining room
- Fitted kitchen

OIRO £95,000

Thunderbolt Way,Tipton

- Second Floor
- Entrance Hallway
- Two Bedrooms
- Family Bathroom
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen

OIRO £94,950

Queen Street,Wednesbury

- Semi Detached
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Rear Garden

Offers in Excess of £90,000

Moxley Road,Wednesbury

- MID TERRACE
- THREE BEDROOMS
- LOUNGE
- DINER
- DOWNSTAIRS BATHROOM
- FITTED KITCHEN

£89,950

Damson Wharf,Tipton

- Three Bedroom Three Storey
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Family Bathroom&Downstairs WC
- Will Bring £560PPCM!
- Double Glazing and Gas Central Heating
- Off Road Parking & Garage
- One Sold, Two Left!

Offers in Excess of £88,000

Holyhead Road,Wednesbury

- UPPER FLOOR FLAT
- TWO BEDROOMS
- ENSUITE
- FAMILY BATHROOM
- LOUNGE
- KITCHEN

£87,950

Mark Road,Wednesbury

- TERRACED PROPERTY
- THREE BEDROOMS
- KITCHEN
- DOWNSTAIRS BATHROOM
- UPSTAIRS SHOWER ROOM
- OFF ROAD PARKING
- REAR GARDEN
- DOUBLE GLAZING

Offers in Excess of £87,000

Holyhead Road,Wednesbury

- UPPER FLOOR FLAT
- ENTRANCE HALLWAY
- TWO BEDROOMS
- EN-SUITE TO MASTER
- FAMILY BATHROOM
- LOUNGE/DINER
- FITTED KITCHEN
- STORAGE

OIRO £85,000

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Booth Street,Wednesbury

- TERRACED PROPERTY
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- TWO BEDROOMS
- FULLY FITTED KITCHEN
- REAR GARDEN
- SECURE REAR PARKING

Offers in Excess of £84,000

Westbury Road,Wednesbury

- Semi-detached
- Entrance hallway
- Lounge
- Fitted kitchen
- Downstairs W.C
- Family bathroom

Offers in Excess of £79,995

Bagnalls Wharf,Wednesbury

- Second Floor Apartment
- Two Bedrooms
- Lounge
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
- Bathroom
- Parking Areas

£77,500

Whitehall Road,West Bromwich

- Well Presented Flat
- Fitted Kitchen
- Ample Storage
- Communal Gardens
- Ideal Investment
- Ground Floor

£74,995

Rugeley Close,Tipton

- FIRST FLOOR
- ONE BEDROOM
- PERFECT FOR FIRST TIME BUYERS
- FITTED KITCHEN
- FITTED BATHROOM
- DOUBLE GLAZING

OIRO £59,950

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Knowles Street, Wednesbury
- Three Bedrooms Detached
- Large Rear Garden
- Garage Conversion
- Downstairs WC
- Off Road Parking
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £650

Kilburn Road, Birmingham
- Three Bedrooms
- Kitchen with Appliances
- Off Road Parking
- Large Rear Garden
- No Pets
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £600

Jasmine Way, Wednesbury
- Three Bedroom Semi Detached House
- Integral Garage
- Two Reception Rooms
- Utility and Downstairs WC
- Front and Rear Gardens
- Off Road Parking

Monthly Rental Of £600

Woden Road North, Wednesbury
- Three Bedrooms Semi Detached House
- Located Near A School
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Off Road Rear Parking
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £600

Dilliars Walk, West Bromwich
- Four Bedroom Terraced House
- Off Road Parking
- Gas Central Heating
- Off Road Parking To The Rear
- Conservatory
- DHSS CONSIDERED

Monthly Rental Of £575

Coleraine Road, Birmingham
- Three Bedroom Semi Detached House
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Conservatory
- Off Road Parking
- DHSS Accepted

Monthly Rental Of £575

Surrey Road, Birmingham
- Three Bedrooms Terraced House
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Off Road Parking
- Down Stairs Bathroom
- DHSS CONSIDERED

Monthly Rental Of £575

Bull Lane, West Bromwich
- Four Bedroom Semi Detached House
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Down Stairs W.C.
- Off Road parking
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £600

Broadwaters Road, Wednesbury
- Three Bedroom Semi Detached House
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Off Road Parking
- Large Rear Garden
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £550

Walcot Drive, Birmingham
- Entrance Hallway
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen / Diner
- Three Bedrooms
- Double Glazing
- Off Road Parking

Monthly Rental Of £525

Wesley Grove, Wednesbury
- Three bedroom Semi detached House
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central heating
- Front and Rear gardens
- Recently Refurbished
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £475

Carden Close, West Bromwich
- Two Bedroom Mid Terraced
- Large Rear Garden
- Front And Rear Access
- Fitted Kitchen
- Double Glazing
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £475

Bromford Lane, West Bromwich
- Studio Apartment
- Off Road Parking
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- All Bills included (Except Council Tax)
- DHSS ACCEPTED

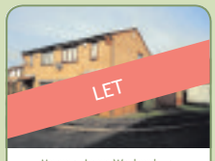
Monthly Rental Of £475

King Street, Bilston
- Two Bedroomed Upper Floor Flat
- Spacious Throughout
- Modern Kitchen and Bathrooms
- Popular Location
- DHSS Considered
- Call Today!

Monthly Rental Of £375

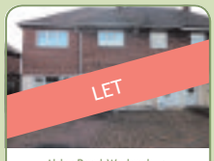
Dunkirk Avenue, West Bromwich
- Studio Apartment
- Off Road Parking
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- ALL BILLS INCLUDED (Except Council Tax)
- DHSS ACCEPTED

Monthly Rental Of £350



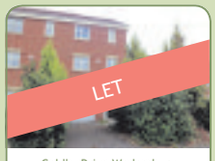
Memory Lane, Wednesbury
- Three Bedrooms Semi Detached
- Gas Central Heating
- Off Road Parking
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
- Located in the Victoria Mews Estate
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £550



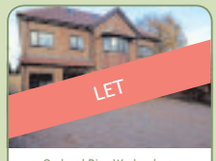
Alder Road, Wednesbury
- FOUR Bedrooms
- Semi-Detached House
- Cul-De-Sac Location
- Extensive Kitchen
- Off Road Parking
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £550



Goldby Drive, Wednesbury
- Three Bedrooms
- Guest W/C
- Master with En-Suite
- Off Road Parking
- Garage
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £550



Orchard Rise, Wednesbury
- Two Bedrooms Ground Floor Apartment
- Double Glazing
- Brand New
- Fitted Kitchen
- Electric Heating
- SORRY NO DHSS

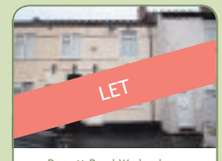
Monthly Rental Of £475

Bedford Street, Tipton
- Two Bedroom Second Floor Apartment
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Allocated Parking
- Fully Fitted kitchen
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £475

Vauxhall Road, Birmingham
- ONE BEDROOM FLAT
- GROUND FLOOR
- GAS CENTRAL HEATING
- SPACIOUS LOUNGE
- BATHROOM
- KITCHEN

Monthly Rental Of £450



Dorsett Road, Wednesbury
- Three Bedroom Mid Terrace House
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Open Fires in kitchen and Living Room
- Fitted Kitchen
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £450

Myvod Road, Wednesbury
- One Bedrooms Ground Floor Apartment
- Electric Heating
- Double Glazing
- Off Road Parking
- Newly Refurbished
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £450

Bloomfield Road, Tipton
- Two Bedroom Dormer Bungalow
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Rear Garden
- Off Road Parking
- DHSS CONSIDERED

Monthly Rental Of £450

Oberon Grove, Wednesbury
- One Bedroom First Floor Apartment
- Fully Furnished
- Allocated Parking
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- SORRY NO DHSS

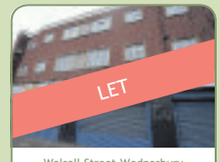
Monthly Rental Of £450

The Avenue, Wednesbury
- Two Bedrooms First Floor Apartment
- Double Glazing
- Electric Heating
- Fitted Kitchen
- Allocated Parking
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £450

Queen Street, Wednesbury
- One Bedroom First Floor Coach House
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Garage
- Off Road Parking
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £430



Walsall Street, Wednesbury
- One Bedroom First Floor Apartment
- Electric Heating
- Off Road Parking
- Double Glazing
- Secured Accses
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £400

Manifold Way, Wednesbury
- One Bedroom Second Floor Apartment
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Allocated Parking
- Fitted Kitchen
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £375

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Bearwood 122 Poplar Rd Bearwood B66 4AP

Winson Street Birmingham £42,500 REDUCED

A ground floor flat located within close proximity to local amenities and schools representing the ideal first time buy or investment. Accommodation comprises: open plan lounge/kitchen/diner, bedroom and shower room. EPC: F

Westfield Road Smethwick £104,950 NEW

A mid terraced Victorian property offered for sale with no upward chain, having gas central heating and double glazing where specified and comprising: lounge, dining room, kitchen, bathroom, three bedrooms, gardens to front and rear. EPC: D

Willow Gardens Birmingham £155,000 NEW

An end townhouse with development opportunity with gas central heating and double glazing where specified and comprising: entrance porch, entrance hall, lounge, kitchen/diner, cloakroom, three bedrooms, bathroom, garage, off-road parking, gardens to front and rear. EPC: E

Abbey Road Smethwick £169,950 NEW

A traditional bay fronted, extended semi detached property close to Warley Woods, having gas central heating and double glazing where specified and comprising: entrance hall, lounge, dining room, rear lobby, kitchen, two bathrooms, three bedrooms, garage and gardens. EPC: E

Beechwood Road Smethwick £245,000 NEW

A period property with a host of original features and enjoying rear views to Lightwoods Park, having gas central heating where specified and comprising: entrance porch, entrance hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen, three bedrooms, bathroom, gardens to front and rear. EPC: D

Ridgeway Edgbaston £118,000 NEW

A mid terraced Victorian property with gas central heating and double glazing where specified and comprising: entrance lobby, entrance hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen, two bedrooms, bathroom, off road parking and garden to rear. EPC: E

Milton Court, Sandon Road Smethwick £64,950 REDUCED

A well presented flat located in a retirement complex with double-glazing where specified and comprising: hallway, lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms, shower room, communal grounds and resident's parking. EPC: C

Montague Road Smethwick £155,000 NEW

A semi-detached property having gas central heating and double glazing where specified and comprising: entrance hall, lounge/diner, kitchen, cloakroom, three first floor bedrooms, family bathroom. Outside: garage, parking, gardens to front, side and rear. EPC: D

Yardley Close Oldbury £110,000 NEW

A well presented mid townhouse situated in a cul-de-sac location with gas central heating and double glazing where specified and comprising: entrance hall, kitchen, cloakroom, lounge, three bedrooms, bathroom, parking to front and garden to rear. EPC: C

Lotus Croft Smethwick £127,500 NEW

An end townhouse ideally situated in a cul-de-sac location, with gas central heating and double glazing where specified and comprising: entrance hall, through lounge/kitchen, three bedrooms, bathroom, parking and garden to rear. EPC: C

Bartleet Road Smethwick £220,000 REDUCED

A well maintained detached house with gas central heating and double glazing where specified and comprising: lounge, dining room, kitchen, cloakroom, three bedrooms, upstairs family bathroom, driveway, garage and gardens to rear. EPC: D

Oldbury 70/76 Birmingham Street Birmingham B69 4EB

Wolverhampton Road Oldbury £159,950 NEW

EPC RATING E - A recently REFURBISHED and well presented TRADITIONAL semi detached property with lounge, kitchen/diner, downstairs w.c, three bedrooms, bathroom and garage. Double glazing and central heating where specified. ●●VIEWING IS A MUST●●

Elm Croft Oldbury £145,000 REDUCED

EPC RATING E - ●SOUGHT AFTER CUL-DE-SAC LOCATION● An extended three bedroom traditional semi detached property with off road parking, garage and kitchen/diner. Double glazing and central heating where specified. VIEWING IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

Shelsley Avenue Oldbury £129,950

EPC RATING D - ●●● OPEN HOUSE EVENT - Saturday 4th April - CALL US TO CONFIRM TIME ●● An IMMACULATELY presented REFURBISHED 3 bedroom, semi detached property in CUL-DE-SAC location. Double glazing and central heating where specified.

Pine Road Tividale £125,000

EPC RATING D - A TRADITIONAL two bedroomed semi detached property located close to local amenities and public transport routes. The property comprises of lounge, kitchen/diner, two DOUBLE bedrooms, family bathroom, garage and off road parking. The property has PREVIOUSLY had PLANNING PERMISSION granted for extension

Weston Avenue Tividale £122,000 REDUCED

EPC RATING D - Within a sought after residential location and situated on a quiet cul de sac is this EXTENDED 2 bed semi detached home which benefits from a generously proportioned kitchen/diner with 2 good sized bedrooms, NO ONWARD CHAIN, parking for multiple vehicles and an enclosed private rear garden AND GARAGE.

Causeway Green Road Oldbury £115,000 NEW

EPC RATING D - A very well presented semi detached property with a GOOD SIZED family garden, off road parking and double glazing and central heating where specified.

Bristnall Hall Crescent Oldbury £109,950

EPC RATING E - ●NO UPWARD CHAIN● A traditional three bedroom semi detached property comprising of two reception rooms, kitchen, guest w.c and family bathroom. Double glazing and central heating where specified.

New Birmingham Road Tividale £109,950 REDUCED

EPC RATING C - ●PERFECT FOR FIRST TIME BUYERS / YOUNG PROFESSIONALS OR DOWNSIZERS● An IMMACULATE modern apartment with garage, allocated parking space, PRIVATE REAR GARDEN, separate breakfast kitchen. Double glazing and centra heating where specified. ●VIEWING IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED●

Dingle Street Oldbury £99,950

EPC RATING G - ●NO UPWARD CHAIN● A three bedroom semi detached property IN NEED OF MODERNISATION and comprises of lounge, kitchen/diner, family bathroom, off road parking to front and garage to rear. IDEAL INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY. Double glazing and central heating where specified.

Wesley Street Oldbury £94,950 NEW

EPC RATING G - A FANTASTIC OPPORTUNITY to acquire this spacious end terraced property requiring REFURBISHMENT. In a PRIME LOCATION for rail links into London. Ideal for investors and those looking for a refurbishment opportunity. Viewing is highly recommended to appreciate the accommodation on offer.

Waterside Court, Titford Oldbury £75,000

EPC RATING C - ●NO UPWARD CHAIN● A ground floor flat ideal for first time buyer or investment. Open plan living area with kitchen, two bedrooms, bathroom, allocated parking. Double glazing and central heating where specified. ●VIEWING IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED●

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CONTACT YOUR LOCAL AGENT FOR MORE DETAILS

Wednesbury 22 Springhead Wednesbury WS10 9AD

267 Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, West Midlands WS10 7DQ

PUBLIC NOTICE

Connells are now in receipt of an offer for the sum of £58,500 for 267 Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, West Midlands WS10 7DQ. Anyone wishing to place an offer on this property should contact Connells, 22 Spring Head, Wednesbury, West Midlands WS10 9AD Tel 0121 556 2338 before exchange of contracts.

28 Brunswick Park Road, Wednesbury, West Midlands WS10 9HH

PUBLIC NOTICE

Connells are now in receipt of an offer for the sum of £76,000 for 28 Brunswick Park Road, Wednesbury, West Midlands WS10 9HH. Anyone wishing to place an offer on this property should contact Connells, 22 Spring Head, Wednesbury, West Midlands WS10 9AD before exchange of contracts.

Woden Road South Wednesbury £190,000 NEW

Situated in a sought after location in Wednesbury VIEWING ESSENTIAL to appreciate this extended four bedroom semi-detached property briefly comprising of two reception rooms, fitted kitchen, utility area, guest cloakroom, first floor bathroom, enclosed rear garden and off road parking. EPC rating E.

The Oaks, Gospel Oak Road Tipton £179,995

SHOW HOME NOW OPEN THURSDAY - MONDAY 11am - 5pm. A stunning new development of high spec family eco homes with 1kw of solar panels already installed, triple glazed windows and under-floor heating, HELP TO BUY and ASSISTED MOVE AVAILABLE. Call Now on 0121 556 2338 to book a viewing appointment.

Spirit Mews, Cobden Street Wednesbury £149,950 REDUCED

A four bedroom three storey end terrace property briefly comprising of guest cloakroom, lounge, kitchen/diner, first floor bathroom, en-suite to master bedroom, allocated parking, garage, enclosed rear garden. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC Rating B.

Remembrance Road Wednesbury £125,000 NEW

VIEWING HIGHLY ADVISED to appreciate this three bedroom semi-detached property briefly comprising of, uPVC double glazing and gas central heating (as specified) ground floor shower room, through lounge, fitted kitchen, enclosed rear garden. EPC rating D.

Newells Drive Tipton £114,950

A modern style three bedroom semi-detached property situated in a cul-de-sac location briefly comprising of, porch, lounge, kitchen/diner, bathroom, central heating and double glazing (as specified) off road parking to the front and side. EPC rating TBA.

Glebefields Road Tipton £89,950 NEW

A well presented and well maintained 3 bedroom semi detached property conveniently located for local shops and bus routes, offering spacious lounge, kitchen/diner, guest WC, family bathroom, double glazing and central heating (where specified) EPC RATING F

Vicarage Road Wednesbury £90,000 NEW

VIEWING HIGHLY ADVISED to appreciate this traditional three bedroom semi-detached property briefly comprising of, two reception rooms, galley kitchen, ground floor bathroom, double glazing and gas central heating (as specified) enclosed rear garden. EPC Rating E.

Richard Williams Road Wednesbury £81,950

BENEFITING FROM NO UPWARD CHAIN this three bedroom semi-detached property briefly comprising of, uPVC double glazing and gas central heating (as specified) lounge, fitted kitchen, ground floor bathroom, enclosed rear garden, off road parking and garage. EPC Rating E.

Walsall Road Wednesbury £69,950

BENEFITING FROM NO UPWARD CHAIN this traditional style two bedroom mid-terrace property briefly comprising of, uPVC double glazing and gas central heating (as specified) two reception rooms, fitted kitchen, ground floor bathroom, loft room and rear garden. EPC Rating E.

Brickhouse Lane Tipton £50,000

BENEFITING FROM NO UPWARD CHAIN this one bedroom second floor apartment briefly comprising of, entrance hall, bathroom, lounge, kitchen and allocated parking. EPC rating E.

Gladstone Street West Bromwich £84,000 NEW

A beautifully presented modern 2 bedroom first floor apartment, offering spacious lounge, fitted kitchen, bathroom, double glazing, electric heating, allocated parking and communal gardens. EPC RATING B

West Bromwich 3 Astle Park West Bromwich B70 8NS

Hargate Lane West Bromwich £127,950 REDUCED

A well presented 3 bedroom end terrace property located close to Sandwell Hospital and West Bromwich town centre, offering 2 reception rooms, kitchen/diner, cellar, upstairs family bathroom, double glazing, central heating (where specified) garage and rear entrance. EPC RATING E

Church Lane West Bromwich £155,000 NEW

●●● NO UPWARD CHAIN ●●● A well presented modern 3 bedroom 2.1/2 storey town house, offering spacious lounge, conservatory,guest WC, fitted kitchen, family bathroom, en-suite to master bedroom, dressing room, garage to rear, double glazing and central heating (where specified) EPC RATING C

West Bromwich £99,950

PUBLIC NOTICE

Connells Estate Agents are now in receipt of an offer for the sum of £107,000 for 12 Church Vale Mews, West Bromwich West Midlands B71 4DS.Anyone wishing to place an offer on the property should contact Connells, 3 Astle Park, West Bromwich B70 8NS on 0121 525 1177 prior to exchange of contracts.

Tame Street West Bromwich £65,000

●●● NO UPWARD CHAIN ●●● A modern 1 bedroom ground floor canal side apartment situated in a Cul de Sac and offering double bedroom, lounge, fitted kitchen, bathroom, double glazing, central heating (where specified) and allocated parking. EPC rating B.

Griffiths Road West Bromwich £139,950 NEW

A beautifully presented 3 bedroom extended end terrace property, briefly comprising of central heating, double glazing, reception room, open plan 2nd reception area to dining area, fitted kitchen, downstairs cloakroom, family bathroom, detached garage, off road parking. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC RATING TBC

West Bromwich £79,950

PUBLIC NOTICE

Connells are now in receipt of an offer for the sum of £84,200 for 163 Wolseley Road, West Bromwich B70 0LU. Anyone wishing to place an offer on the property should contact Connells, 3 Astle Park, West Bromwich B70 8NS, telephone 0121 525 1177 prior to exchange of contracts.

Tame Street West Bromwich £159,950 REDUCED

A modern mid terrace town house in a block of 3 sitting in a Cul de Sac location and offering 3 double bedrooms en-suite to master bedroom, family bathroom, guest cloakroom, spacious lounge/diner, fitted kitchen, double glazing, central heating (where specified), allocated parking and garage. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC RATING TBC

Lynton Avenue West Bromwich £114,950 NEW

A traditional 3 bedroom end terrace property conveniently located for shops and public transport, offering through lounge,extended kitchen, family bathroom, double glazing, central heating (where specified) and garage to rear. EPC TBC

West Bromwich £99,950

PUBLIC NOTICE

Connells are now in receipt of an offer for the sum of £105,000, for 10 Graham Road, West Bromwich, B71 4ED. Anyone wishing to place an offer on this property should contact Connells, 3 Astle Park, West Bromwich B70 8NS telephone 0121 525 1177 before exchange of contracts

0121 420 3611 bearwood@connells.co.uk | 0121 552 2671 oldbury@connells.co.uk
0121 556 2338 wednesbury@connells.co.uk | 0121 525 1177 westbromwich@connells.co.uk

The Property Ombudsman

Courtyard garden would be ideal for sun lovers

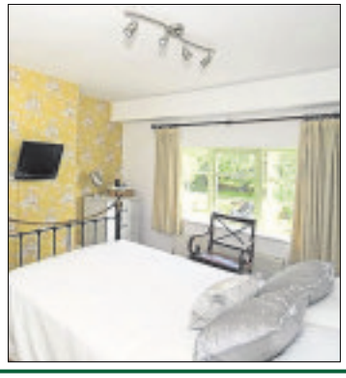
THIS delightful two-bedroomed cottage in High Street, Belbroughton lies directly opposite the village green in a conservation area.

It is for sale through The Lee Shaw Partnership at £229,500.

With gas central heating and double glazing it has two bedrooms, stylish re-fitted shower room and lounge with a multi-fuel stove, tiled floor an open plan dining kitchen area with cream units, dishwasher, oven, hob, fridge/freezer and washer/dryer.

The courtyard garden is currently decorated with pots and is a lovely place to sit in the sun.

For further information contact The Lee Shaw Partnership on 01562 888111 or visit www.leeshaw.com



Detached is handy for local amenities

A detached property on a recently-built development, 49 Kirkpatrick Drive, Wordsley is well placed for amenities and has spacious accommodation.

It is for sale through The Property Shop at £199,950. It has an entrance hall, lounge, kitchen/diner with attractive high gloss black units, downstairs WC, three bedrooms with an en-suite to the master and a family bathroom.

The property also benefits from gas central heating, double glazing, off road parking, garage and landscaped rear garden and really must be viewed to be appreciated!

For further information contact The Property Shop on 01384 444645 or visit www.thepropertyshop.co.uk

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EPC: TBC

Wednesbury
Rachael Gardens

- Three bedroom semi
- Lounge
- Dining area
- Separate breakfast area
- Fitted kitchen with oven & gas hob
- Family bathroom
- Alarm system

£700pcm

EPC: C

West Bromwich
St. Christopher Close

- Three bed detached
- Quiet cul-de-sac location
- Centrally heated
- Convenient to the M5 (Junction 1)
- Dining room area
- Bathroom with shower

£700pcm

EPC: E

Tipton
Watery Lane

- Three bed detached house
- Quiet cul-de-sac location
- Central heating & double glazing
- Landscaped gardens
- Fitted breakfast kitchen

£625pcm

EPC: C

Tipton
Patricia Drive

- Two bed semi
- Alarmed
- Gas central heated
- Double glazed
- Spacious lounge
- Fully fitted breakfast kitchen
- Bathroom with shower

£525pcm

REDUCED

EPC: D

Tividale
City Road

- Three bedroom semi
- Lounge
- Dining room
- Kitchen with cooker
- Family bathroom
- Rear garden

£495pcm

EPC: B

Wednesbury
Goldby Drive

- Two bed first floor apartment
- Fully fitted kitchen
- Bathroom with bath and shower
- Parking
- Tipton office

£475pcm

EPC: B

Tipton
Gough Drive

- One bedroom first floor apartment
- Kitchen with integrated cooker
- Bedroom with fitted wardrobes
- Bathroom with bath and shower facilities

£425pcm

EPC: F

DSS ACCEPTED

Tipton
St Marks Road

- Second floor flat
- Three bedrooms
- Bathroom with shower over
- Communal gardens
- Gas centrally heating
- Unfurnished
- Available immediately

£425pcm

NEW

EPC: E

Bilston
Attlee Crescent

- Four bed extended semi
- Lounge
- Separate dining room
- Fully fitted kitchen
- Separate utility room
- Downstairs WC
- First floor family bathroom

£650pcm

EPC: TBC

APPLICATION MADE

Dudley
Longfellow Road

- Three bedroom semi
- Double glazed and gas centrally heated
- Dining room
- Extended breakfast kitchen
- Bathroom with shower
- Single garden

£595pcm

EPC: TBC

Wolverhampton
Winchester Road

- Three bed semi
- Lounge
- Separate dining room
- Family bathroom
- Fitted kitchen with cooker
- Rear garden
- Available immediately

£595pcm

EPC: D

Wolverhampton
Emerson Road

- Fully fitted kitchen
- Modern bathroom
- Large Lounge
- Three bedrooms
- Central heating and double glazing
- Rear garden
- Off road parking

£575pcm

EPC: TBC

Bilston
Hatherton Road

- Three bedrooms
- Refitted kitchen with integrated oven
- Gas central heating
- UPVC double glazing
- Refitted bathroom with shower over bath
- Conservatory

£550pcm

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(option 2)

EPC: D

Bilston
Leighton Road

- Three bed semi
- Hall
- Downstairs cloakroom with shower
- Lounge
- Dining kitchen
- Utility room/study
- Luxury refitted

£550pcm

EPC: TBC

Bilston
Harlyn Close

- Two bed terraced house
- Lounge
- Rear garden
- Allocated parking
- Fully fitted kitchen with appliances
- Bathroom with bath and shower

£520pcm

EPC: D

Bloxwich
Kirkstall Close

- Two double bedrooms
- Lounge with feature fire place
- Re-fitted kitchen
- Re-fitted bathroom
- D/Glazing & Gas CH
- Enclosed rear garden
- Off road parking

£500pcm

EPC: C

Wolverhampton
Whitehouse Crescent

- Purpose built first floor flat
- One double bedroom
- UPVC double glazing
- Refitted kitchen with integrated oven, hob, extractor and fridge/ freezer

£435pcm

EPC: D

Coseley
Castle Street

- Two bed first floor flat
- Electric heated
- DG
- Communal garden
- Unfurnished
- Tipton office

£395pcm

REDUCED

EPC: C

Wolverhampton
Essington Way

- One bed ground floor apartment
- Private front door access
- Lounge
- Fully fitted modern kitchen
- Bathroom with shower

£375pcm

TENANTS!

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NEW

Barclay Road, Bearwood

- Delightful End Terrace
- Off Road Parking
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Well Maintained Garden
- EP Rating E

Offers in the region of £229,950

NEW

Rawlings Road, Bearwood

- Charming Traditional Terrace
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Period Features
- Delightful Rear Garden
- EP Rating D

Offers in the region of £132,500

NEW

Glyn Farm Road, Quinton

- Well Presented Semi
- Three Bedrooms
- Generously Sized Rear Garden
- Off Road Parking
- Ideal Family Home
- EPC Rating E

Offers in the region of £165,000

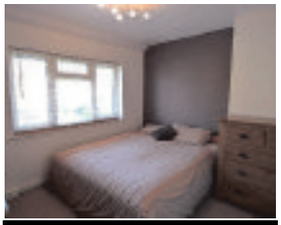
NEW

Dog Kennel Lane, Oldbury

- Attractive & Extended Semi
- Three Reception Rooms
- Four Bedrooms
- Ample Parking & Garage
- No Upward Chain
- EP Rating D

Offers in the region of £219,950

NEW



Astbury Avenue, Smethwick

- Charming End Terrace
- Three Bedrooms
- Spacious Dining Kitchen
- Off Road Parking
- No Upward Chain
- EP Rating TBC

Offers In The Region Of £114,950

NEW

Bristnall Hall Lane, Oldbury

- Charming End Terrace
- Ideal for Young Families
- Dining Kitchen
- Off Road Parking
- Convenient for Schools
- EP Rating C

Offers in the region of £114,950

Trinder Road, Smethwick

- Beautifully Presented Semi
- Three Bedrooms
- Attractive Rear Garden
- EP Rating E

Offers in the region of £144,950

NEW

Deblen Drive, Edgbaston

- Attractive Mid Terrace Property
- Quiet Cul-de sac Location
- Three Bedrooms
- Spacious Lounge
- Great Family Home
- EPC Rating C

Offers in the region of £169,950

NEW PRICE

Pitcairn Road, Smethwick

- Traditional Semi Detached
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Ground Floor WC
- No Upward Chain
- EP Rating D

Offers in the region of £159,950

Wolverhampton Road, Oldbury

- Exceptional Detached Property
- Four Double Bedrooms
- Beautifully Maintained Garden
- EP Rating E

Offers in the region of £374,950

NEW PRICE

Doulton Close, Harborne

- Most Attractive Mid Terrace
- Two Reception Rooms
- Three Bedrooms
- Contemporary Shower Room
- Garage
- EP Rating D

Offers in the region of £164,950

The Uplands, Smethwick

- Most Attractive Mid Terrace
- Two double Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- EP Rating D

Offers in the region of £114,950

Wolverhampton Road, Oldbury

- Much Improved Detached
- Three Double Bedrooms
- Spacious Dining Kitchen
- EP Rating E

Offers in the region of £325,000

Devon Road, Bearwood

- Double Fronted Victorian House
- Four Bedrooms
- Three Reception Rooms
- EP Rating E

Offers in the region of £385,000

Castle Road West, Oldbury

- Well Presented Semi-Detached
- Three Bedrooms
- Extended Kitchen
- EP Rating TBC

Offers in the region of £169,950

Milton Court, Sandon Road, Smethwick

- Attractive Retirement Apartment
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Residents Parking
- EP Rating C

Offers in excess of £64,950

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NEW

185 THIMBLEMILL ROAD, BEARWOOD

- Scope for extension if required
- 3 bedrooms & bathroom
- Two reception rooms
- Off-road parking for 3 cars
- Gas central heating
- PVC double glazing
- Substantial rear garden

OFFERS BASED ON £159,950

VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

REDUCED

10 OLDACRE ROAD, OLDBURY

- Modern freehold town house
- Gas centrally heated & PVC double glazed
- Three bedrooms
- Shower room and separate W.C.
- Spacious lounge & kitchen/dining room
- Neatly laid out gardens to front and rear
- Ideal FTBs

OFFERS BASED ON £119,950

VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

REDUCED

4 SHERWOOD ROAD, BEARWOOD

- Extended mid-terraced property
- Gas centrally heated & PVC double glazed
- Two bedrooms & occasional bed. 3/ box room
- Two reception rooms
- Downstairs cloakroom
- Kitchen and extended utility/ dining room
- INTERNAL INSPECTION TO BE APPRECIATED
- ENERGY

OFFERS BASED ON £175,000

VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

REDUCED

1 FERNDALE ROAD, OLDBURY

- Gas centrally heated and PVC double glazed
- Three bedrooms and fully tiled bathroom
- Through lounge/dining room and kitchen
- Verandah and fully tiled downstairs cloakroom
- Off-street parking
- ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON £118,950

Viewing Bearwood Office

1 DAMIAN CLOSE, SMETHWICK

- Quiet cul-de-sac location
- Semi-detached bungalow
- Centrally heated & PVC double glazed
- Refitted kitchen & bathroom
- Two double bedrooms
- Refurbished with inspection to be appreciated
- Separate garage in block

OFFERS BASED ON £144,950

Viewing Bearwood Office

7 WARLEY HALL ROAD : OLDBURY

- Extended semi-detached
- 3 bedrooms
- Good size conservatory
- INTERNAL INSPECTION
- EPC : D

OFFERS BASED ON £184,950

Viewing : Bearwood Office

29 STANLEY ROAD, OLDBURY

- Extended semi-detached property
- Gas centrally heated & PVC double glazed
- Three bedrooms
- Spacious lounge and dining room
- Splendid refitted kitchen/breakfast room
- Neatly laid out garden to the rear
- Off-street parking for two cars
- INTERNAL INSPECTION TO BE APPRECIATED

OFFERS BASED ON £165,000

Viewings Bearwood Office

34 WILSON ROAD, OLDBURY

- Prime location close to Warley Woods
- Freehold semi-detached property
- Virtually PVC double glazed throughout
- Gas centrally heated
- Three bedrooms & fully tiled bathroom
- Lounge, conservatory, kitchen & small utility
- Off-street parking for two cars
- INTERNAL INSPECTION TO BE APPRECIATED
- ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED ON £164,950

Viewings Bearwood Office

58 TALBOT ROAD, BEARWOOD

- Superbly presented & recently refurbished
- Gas centrally heated, double glazed and alarmed
- Two double bedrooms
- Bathroom with double shower compartment & bath
- Lounge, dining room and superbly presented kitchen
- Neatly laid out garden to the rear
- Ideal FTBs
- INTERNAL INSPECTION A MUST
- ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON £139,500

VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

38 DRAYTON ROAD, BEARWOOD

- Easy access to Birmingham city centre
- Gas centrally heated
- PVC double glazed
- Two double bedrooms and bathroom
- Lounge, dining room and kitchen
- Neatly laid out garden to the rear
- Ideal FTBs
- ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON £135,000

VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

28 DUNSFORD ROAD BEARWOOD

- Easy access to Birmingham city centre
- Gas centrally heated
- PVC double glazed
- Two double bedrooms and first floor bathroom
- Through lounge/dining room and kitchen
- Ideal FTBs
- ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED ON £127,950

VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

185 PARK ROAD, BEARWOOD

- Superbly presented
- Easy reach Warley Woods
- Three bedrooms

Kitchen and utility

- Downstairs cloakroom
- Beautifully presented garden
- EPC : E

OFFERS BASED ON £229,950

Viewing Bearwood Office

77 GALTON ROAD, BEARWOOD

- Close to Lightwoods Park and Warley Woods
- Gas centrally heated & PVC double glazed
- Three bedrooms and bathroom to first floor
- Hall, through lounge/dining room and kitchen
- An ideal family home
- ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED ON £172,500

Viewings Bearwood Office

128 HARBORNE ROAD BEARWOOD

- Superbly situated individual detached residence
- Excellent family accommodation or investment with consent for multi-occupation
- Gas central heating
- Directly facing Warley Woods
- 6 bedrooms as private house or 7 bedrooms for multi-occupation
- 18ft lounge and separate dining room
- Cloaks/shower room
- 20ft x 14ft fully fitted dining kitchen
- Sun lounge
- Easily maintained gardens and garage included
- ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED ON £475,000

VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

AUCTION

DO YOU NEED AN IMMEDIATE EXCHANGE OF CONTRACTS, EARLY COMPLETION AND THE BEST OPEN MARKET PRICE?

Our next auction will take place on
MONDAY 1ST JUNE 2015
& which will include the following Lots:

26 Wilmington Road, Quinton, B32 1DX A traditional freehold 3 bedroomed semi-detached in need of refurbishment	£125 - 135,000
36 Canalside, Winson Green, B18 4SN Beautifully refurbished freehold 3 bedroomed semi-detached in waterside setting	£ 80 - 85,000
58 Cornwall Avenue, Oldbury, B68 0SW Freehold 3 bedroomed town house needing improvement	£ 75 - 80,000
15 Dawson Street, Smethwick, B66 4JB Traditional 2 bedroomed terraced, requiring modernisation	£ 75 - 80,000
1 Embassy Drive, Oldbury, B69 2ER Freehold 3 bedroomed end town house requiring improvement	£ 70 - 80,000
78 Lightwoods Road, Bearwood, B67 5BE Freehold 2 bedroomed mid-terraced villa, needing some general cosmetic improvement	£ 90 - 95,000
85 Salop Road, Oldbury, B68 9AE 3 bedroomed end town house being gas centrally heated & double glazed	£ 85 - 90,000
Thuree House, 221 Abbey Road, Bearwood, B67 5NN Freehold individual detached 3 bedroomed corner residence, in need of sympathetic improvement	£210 - 220,000
64 Hamilton Road, Bearwood, B67 5QF Freehold semi-detached with 3 bedrooms, needing cosmetic improvement	£ 85 - 90,000
24 Arden Grove, Langley, B69 4SX Well presented mid-terraced property with central heating & double glazing	£ 75 - 80,000
4 Howfield Court, 393 Gillott Road, Edgbaston, B16 9LL Spacious 2 bedroomed flat with garage, ideal investment	£ 60 - 70,000

12 HALLEWELL ROAD, EDGBASTON

- Beautifully improved substantial family residence
- Sympathetically modernised to an exacting specification
- Gas central heating, double glazing and burglar alarm
- SOLAR PANEL HEATING
- Extremely spacious with many original features
- FIVE BEDROOMS
- Expensively equipped re-fitted and fully tiled bathroom
- Lounge & separate dining room both with feature fireplaces
- 23ft dining/kitchen Morning/sitting room
- Laundry/WC
- Established gardens
- Pleasant tree-lined residential thoroughfare
- INSPECTION

OFFERS IN EXCESS OF £290,000

Viewing Bearwood Office

37 EDWARD ROAD, OLDBURY

- Superbly presented & refurbished semi-detached
- Gas centrally heated, PVC double glazed & alarmed
- FIVE bedrooms
- Refitted bathroom and separate cloakroom
- Hall, lounge and extended sitting room
- Kitchen/breakfast room with integrated appliances
- Utility/cloakroom
- Neatly laid out garden to the rear
- Off-street parking for two/three cars
- INTERNAL INSPECTION A MUST
- ENERGY RATING : C

OFFERS BASED ON £244,950

Viewings Bearwood Office

37 REGINALD ROAD, BEARWOOD

- Freehold mid-terraced
- Centrally heated
- Double glazed
- Two bedrooms
- Bathroom with sep. shower
- Through lounge/dining room
- Ideal FTBs
- ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED ON £114,500

VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

383 CITY ROAD, EDGBASTON

- Viewing SIMPLY A MUST
- Recently refurbished
- SIX bedrooms
- En-suite & 3 bath/show rooms
- Refitted kitchen/dining room
- Utility
- Off-street parking
- ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED ON £324,999

VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

21 SISKIN CLOSE, OLDBURY

- Modern freehold detached residence
- Immaculate much improved centrally heated, double glazed & alarmed accommodation
- Three bedrooms, one en-suite & separate house bathroom
- Hall, fitted cloakroom, through lounge & excellent fully refitted open plan dining/kitchen
- Good size garden with off-street parking
- Pleasant residential close
- ADJOINING FREEHOLD BUILDING PLOT with planning permission for a new two bedroomed detached dormer bungalow
- ENERGY RATING : C

OFFERS BASED ON £269,500

VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

39 BRISBANE ROAD, SMETHWICK

- Gas centrally heated
- Double glazed
- Three bedrooms
- Open plan lounge/diner
- Extended kitchen
- ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON £97,500

VIEWING BEARWOOD OFFICE

4 LARA GROVE, TIPTON

- Modern town house
- Gas centrally heated
- Double glazed
- 2 double bedrooms
- First floor bathroom
- Spacious lounge
- Off-street parking
- Ideal FTBs or Investors
- ENERGY RATING : C

OFFERS BASED ON £110,000

VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

6 SELSEY AVENUE, EDGBASTON

- Refurbished terraced villa
- Easy access City Centre
- 2 double bedrooms
- Spacious refitted bathroom
- Two reception rooms
- Refitted kitchen
- Off-street parking
- Inspection to be appreciated
- ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED ON £129,950

VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

8 WILLOWSBROOK ROAD, HALESOWEN

- Extended semi-detached
- Located in Hurst Green
- Gas centrally heated
- PVC double glazed
- Three bedrooms
- Occ. bed 4/loft conversion
- Fully tiled bathroom
- Dining room

OFFERS BASED ON £199,950

VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

102 POPLAR ROAD, BEARWOOD

- Mid-terraced property
- Gas centrally heated
- PVC double glazed
- 3 beds & first floor bathroom
- Vestibule & hallway
- Lounge & dining room
- Kitchen & utility
- Downstairs bathroom
- Off-street parking at rear
- ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED ON £187,950

VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

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OLDBURY, Warwick Road

A rare opportunity to acquire an extremely spacious, delightfully presented, 3 bedoomed extended semi detached property occupying a pleasant cul-de-sac position within this popular neighbourhood, having gas radiator heating, double glazing and comprising :- Porch, Entrance hall, delightful through lounge/dining area, study, attractive fitted kitchen (with oven/hob), 3 EXCELLENT DOUBLE BEDROOMS, super bathroom and separate shower, and pleasant rear garden. VIEWING ESSENTIAL TO BE FULLY APPRECIATED. EPC D. BEARWOOD OFFICE

Offers around £192,500

SMETHWICK, Baldwin Street

Delightful, spacious, modern, 3 bedroomed end position family home upon this popular development, having gas radiator heating, double glazing and comprising :- Entrance hall (with downstairs wc off), super fitted kitchen (having oven/hob), delightful spacious lounge, 3 bedrooms (master with shower room en-suite), house bathroom, pleasant rear garden, off road parking. VIEWING ESSENTIAL. EPC B. BEARWOOD OFFICE

Offers around £174,500

BARTLEY GREEN, Napton Grove

Delightfully presented, considerably improved, 3 bedroomed semi detached property occupying a pleasant cul-de-sac position, having gas radiator heating, double glazing and comprising :- Porch, entrance hall, delightful lounge, super re-fitted kitchen (with integral oven/hob), spacious conservatory, re-fitted bathroom, 3 bedrooms, off road parking and pleasant rear garden. VIEWING ESSENTIAL. EPC D. BEARWOOD OFFICE

Offers around £137,500

SMETHWICK, Silverton Road

A chance to acquire a deceptively spacious, well presented, 2 bedroomed intermediate terraced property, conveniently situated for local shopping facilities, having double glazing, gas radiator heating and comprising :- Attractive dining/sitting room, delightful lounge, kitchen, re-fitted shower room, 2 good sized double bedrooms, and pleasant rear garden. VIEWING ESSENTIAL. EPC D. BEARWOOD OFFICE

Offers around £104,950

OLDBURY, Pound Road

A deceptively spacious 3 bedroomed intermediate terraced property, requiring modernisation but offering potential, having gas radiator heating, majority double glazing, and comprising :- Front reception room, rear reception room, kitchen, downstairs bathroom, 3 bedrooms, additional wc (off landing), and rear garden. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC D. BEARWOOD OFFICE.

Offers around £84,950

SMETHWICK, Marshall Street

●SUBSTANTIAL £30,000 REDUCTION● Spacious, well presented, modern 5 (originally 6) bed semi detached property having gas radiator heating, double glazing, and comprising :- Entrance hall (with w.c., off), spacious lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen (having integrated appliances), first floor offering 3 good sized bedrooms and house bathroom, second floor providing 2 further bedrooms (master with shower room en-suite), GARAGE and rear garden. EPC C. BEARWOOD OFFICE

New price — Offers around £199,950

OLDBURY, Suffolk Close

Spacious, delightfully presented, 3 BED DETACHED property occupying a pleasant cul-de-sac position, having gas radiator heating, double glazing and comprising :- Entrance hall (with downstairs w.c off), spacious lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen (having integrated oven/hob), conservatory, 3 bedrooms (all with fitted wardrobes), re-fitted shower room, off road parking, garage and pleasant rear garden. EPC C. BEARWOOD OFFICE

Offers around £194,950

OLDBURY, Lewis Road

Spacious, well presented 3 BEDROOMED DETACHED property having gas radiator heating, double glazing and comprising :- Porch, entrance hall, delightful spacious through lounge with dining area, breakfast room, attractive kitchen, vestibule area with re-fitted downstairs shower room off, 3 bedrooms, attractive bathroom, 2 GARAGES and pleasant rear garden. VIEWING HIGHLY RECOMMENDED. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC E. BEARWOOD OFFICE.

No upward chain — Offers around £174,950

EDGBASTON, Selsey Road

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6 Property

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7 Jobs

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full time - general

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Experience in Progressive Lamination Tools preferable but not essential.

Also required:

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Experienced in Service/Repair and Manufacture of Progressive Press Tools in both Tool Steel and Carbide.
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Please send applications with full C.V. to: Darren Booton
Midland Tool & Design Limited, Barnfield Road, Tipton DY4 9DF.
darren.booton@mtdltd.co.uk

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it

COMPUTER ADMINISTRATOR WANTED - must have experience of corel cad softwear for preparation of drawings for remote controls and general Microsoft data processing. Please apply HBC-radiomatic (UK) Ltd - 0121 503 6930 (office based in Aston, Birmingham) part time considered.

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20 HOME CARERS £6.75ph + mileage, Full and part-time positions, Car drivers, Sandwell, Smethwick, Cradley Heath + Rowley Regis.Call Proline Care on 0121 687 8871.

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8 Motoring

cars over £1500

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2007, 91,000 Miles, Silver, abs, elec. windows, elec. mirrors, air con, fsh, alarm, MoT, Alloys, Stereo, CD,Leather Interior, Parrott Handsfree
£5,499 ono
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1.4 ES i V-TEC
December 2009. 17.5k miles, New condition.
MoT December 15. FSH.
Alloys. Electric heated mirrors.
Electric windows x 4.
A/C. PAS. VSA.
Radio/cd/mp 3 plus extras.
£4,995.
01543 453031 / 07548 267104.

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HONDA JAZZ
1.4 ESi VETEC
December 2009. 17.5k.
New condition.
MoT December 15. FSH.
Alloys. Electric heated mirrors.
Electric windows x 4.
A/C. PAS. VSA.
Radio/cd/mp 3 plus extras.
£5,650.
01543 453031 / 07548 267104.

PEUGEOT 307CC Convertible, black, 2L, 4,600mls from new, full MoT and service. £4,250 ono. 0121 526 4793.

RENAULT MEGANE CABRIOLET
04-2004, 75k Miles, silver, electric windows, airbags, long MoT, auto lights, new cambelt, hard roof, nice condition
£1,695 ono
07447357561

VW BEETLE, 2001, silver, 12 months MoT, all mod cons, serviced, good condition, £1,295. o.n.o. 07852 989076.

cars under £1500

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that the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

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FORD KA ZETEC CLIMATE 3dr hatchback, MoT Jan 2016, 2007, very good condition. £1,150 ono. 0121 537 1871 / 07908 619417.

FORD MONDEO ZETEC S
2001, 89,500 miles, black, abs, electric windows, air bag, electric mirrors, air con, CD player, great runner, heated front screen. Couple of minor dings.
£995 ono.
07967 540494.

HONDA CRV
2 litre, 1999, 151,000 miles, blue, abs, electric windows, air bag, alarm, long MoT, central locking, pas, sunroof, CD, towbar, Cobra alarm.
£800.
07825 334505.

HYUNDAI ACCENT 1.3 2001, 66,570 miles, Green, Good runner. Genuine reason for sale, MoT. £695 ono. 07805 691507.

PEUGEOT 206 GLX, 1.5, 5dr, W reg in silver, 77,000 miles, 1 former keeper, 12 months MoT, excellent, £595. 07984 141652.

PEUGEOT 206 HDi diesel, superb reliable, full MoT, service history, real eye catcher, £1,150. 07512 844586.

VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.8 convertible, lady owner, bought new 2003, silver / black roof, MoT, 120k miles, £995. 07973 346941.

VW SHARAN 1.9 TDi, R reg, 1998, PAS, A/C, C/L, MoT. A few electrical problems. £550 ono. Call 07717 373236.

commercial vehicles

MERCEDES SPRINTER PICK-UP, lwb, 313CDi, 60 reg, 14ft drop side, white, £7,250. 07836 568903.

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motorbikes

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Oldbury Area.

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spares/parts

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tyres / wheels / exhausts

FOUR TORNADO alloy wheels, 16in for Landrover Defender, good condition, £25 each. 01785 255563.

9 Local Information

public & legal notices

LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES
For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to
Marie Hogg on 01902 713146
or email marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk
(remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

MARGARET ROSE MORGAN
(Deceased)
Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 18 Hope Road Toll End Tipton DY4 7DF, who died on 02/01/2015, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned on or before 10/07/2015, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.
THE CO-OPERATIVE LEGAL SERVICES LIMITED
Aztec 650 Aztec West
Almondsbury Bristol BS32 4SD
(Ref: RW/3554051P/Morgan)

public & legal notices

SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

The Borough Council of Sandwell (Birmingham Road, Oldbury) (Temporary Road Closure and 30mph Speed Restriction) Order 2015, has made an Order to temporarily prohibit any vehicles from proceeding along Birmingham Road, Oldbury from its junction with Bridge Street to its junction with Blakeley Hall Road. The maximum duration is 18 months, but the work is expected to be completed by 13/07/15 effective from 11/05/15. It is anticipated that the road closures will be between 20.00 hours and 05.00 hours only. Traffic will be diverted via Oldbury Ringway, Dudley Road East, Dudley Road, Tipton Road, Sedgley Road East, Dudley Port, Horseley Heath, Great Western Way, Black Country New Road, The Expressway, Trinity Way, Spon Lane South, Oldbury Road and vice-versa. The 40mph speed limit between Broadwell Road and Rood End Road will be revoked on both west and eastbound carriageways for the duration of the work and a 30mph speed restiction implemented. Purpose – maintenance work to M5 Oldbury viaduct.

The Borough Council of Sandwell (Crankhall Lane, Wednesbury) (Temporary Road Closure) Order 2015, has made an Order to temporarily prohibit any vehicles from proceeding along Crankhall Lane, Wednesbury between Oldbury Street and Brunswick Park Road. The maximum duration is 18 months, but the work is expected to be completed by 11/05/15, effective from 11/05/15. Traffic will be diverted via Brunswick Park Road, Walsall Street, Wood Green Road and vice-versa and via Woden Road East. Purpose – vegetation clearance and sign replacement on the railway bridge by AMCO for Network Rail.

SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
Regeneration and Economy
Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended)
Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015

I hereby give notice that Sandwell Council has received the following applications under the planning acts which it is required to give public notice for the reason given at the beginning of each group of applications.

The proposed development does not accord with the provisions of the Development Plan in force in the area in which it is situated.

This is a major application.

DC/15/58098	Mr Darren Pallett Wright Leisure Limited	Crystal House 1 - 7 Crystal Drive Smethwick B66 1QG	Proposed change of use of former offices (B1) to a gym (D2) including new front entrance and associated car parking.

Members of the public may inspect copies of these applications at Council House, Freeth Street, Oldbury, West Midlands, B69 3DE

(between 8.00a.m. and 5.30p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 9.00a.m. and 5.30p.m. Wednesday and 8.00a.m. to 5p.m. Friday) or via the Council's Public Access website (www.sandwell.gov.uk).

Anyone who wishes to make representations about these applications can do so via the website, or should write to the Council at the above address within 21 days (and 21 days for Listed Building or Conservation Area consent) of the date of this advertisement quoting the application reference number.

MR NICK BUBALO, Area Director – Regeneration and Economy

10 Personals

personal

ARE YOU AN OFFLINER?
If you don't email, Facebook or Twitter, if you are retired but feel young at heart, if you need Friends who write or telephone please write with landline number to the following box number:
Box Number P19789 , Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

LADY CARER
To Hubby, aged 57 with celebrity Daughter.
Seeks similar lady carer, milky coffee and cake at our home.
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Cannock area.
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50's solvent, own house and car, modern outlook and dress sense seeks female for friendship and possible relationship.
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WIDOW, LATE 60S.
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Photo appreciated and returned.

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Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

sports clubs

WYRLEY JUNIORS FC
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For Girls and Women contact Keith on 07836 202764
For boys and Men contact Sarah on 07733 302759.

general

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Rail travel is standard class with the option to upgrade. Departs Saturday morning/early afternoon from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton, returning on the Sunday afternoon/early evening to give plenty of free time for shopping and sightseeing.

Theatre Showstopper from £229.95
This popular theatre package to the West End departs from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton on the Friday morning returning on the Sunday afternoon/early evening. Standard class travel is included with the option to upgrade. Plus two nights stay at a four-star London hotel of your choice (hotel supplements may apply). Includes a top priced ticket for a Friday evening performance.

**The "from" price and price bands vary for each show – see brochure for details.*

Single rooms subject to availability – supplement applies.

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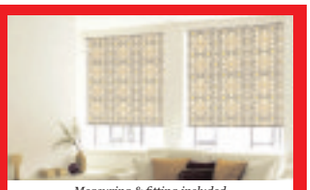

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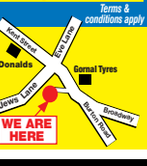

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Women seeking men

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LISA, 31yr old petite bundle of fun looking for fun, easygoing, genuine guy. Age/looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417223**

SOPHIA young 40yrs, married but bored, seeks discreet adult fun, any area, all calls answered. **Tel No: 0906 500 1912 Box 413399**

LINDA, 47, brown-eyed blonde, caring, loving and honest, many interests, seeks genuine male to share lonely evenings with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417211**

ADVENTUROUS sexy lady, 38yrs, married but seeks no strings fun with discreet man, any age. I'm tall, slim and dominant. Aca. **Tel No: 0906 500 1913 Box 415301**

FEMALE seeking gent 55-70, down to earth, nice and intelligent who knows how to treat a lady. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417195**

ANNE, mid 40's, cheerful busty curvy affectionate real woman! Seeks gent, any age or looks for nights at mine. **Tel No: 0906 500 1914 Box 410291**

KATHERINE, romantic, slim, feminine, loves to live life to the full, seeks adventurous outgoing male to appreciate and share life with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417091**

DISCREET lady, 42yrs wants to make you happy, come to me and let me do that for you. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 1915 Box 409901**

SHERRIE 32, blonde, great company, loves going out, looking to share life with that special someone. Status/Looks/age unimportant.**Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417067**

TARA, confident lady, long legs, long hair, seeks a saucy man of any age for daytime, no strings fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 4693 Box 414701**

KAREN 50, blonde hair, blue eyes, slim, GSOH, loving, caring, understanding, seeking similar male, 55-55. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416989**

KAREN 5ft 5ins, blonde hair, blue eyes, slim, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416337**

THELMA, 43, attractive blonde, seeks loving, honest, funny male to pamper and make happy.**Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416979**

PRETTY slim female, 48, N/S, no ties, seeks tall, slim level headed male for initial friendship and evenings out. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416727**

THELMA, 43, attractive blonde, seeks loving, honest, funny male to pamper and make happy. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416979**

DAWN attractive, easygoing, and dazzling, WLTM well built mature male for fun loving no strings romance. Status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416917**

MID naughty forties female looking fun, thrills and discreet meets, give me a call, you wont be disappointed. Any age with own accommodation. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409109**

KAREN medium build, blonde hair, 5ft 5ins, seeks male, 50-58, GSOH, loving, caring and understanding. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415429**

MARIA gorgeous leggy blonde seeks tall professional male for fun nights out, cosy nights in with plenty of TLC and romance. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416861**

SUSAN 44, stunning curvy blonde, fit and active seeks happy go lucky male for good conversation, fun times, maybe more. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416801**

FEMALE fun brunette, attractive, 26, seeking male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416287**

STELLA 50, gorgeous, voluptuous and all woman seeks sensual older male, who knows just what he wants for lots of naughty fun and TLC. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416707**

STELLA 50, gorgeous, voluptuous and all woman seeks sensual older male, who knows just what he wants for lots of naughty fun and TLC. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416707**

PAULA 40, sensual, young at heart brunette looking for some fun and romance with a tall outgoing male. Call if you feel the same. ACA **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416681**

VAL 41, pretty, cuddly, flirty, seeks similar fun loving male for an uncomplicated no strings relationship. Age/looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416601**

EILEEN 49, lovely brunette, adventurous and eager to please seeks intelligent male to share the fun side of life together. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416521**

CHRISTINE 48, shy sensitive brunette looking for lively older male to make her smile again and bring back some passion. s **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416519**

BEAUTIFUL full figured, down to earth black woman, 37, looking for some serious fun with an experienced, confident, older guy. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416499**

SINCERE lady, seeks similar gent, widower preferred, 60-67, 5ft 6ins, so slightly taller than me, N/S, car owner and likes a dog. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416471**

KAREN 5ft 5ins, blonde hair, blue eyes, slim, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416337**

JUNE 50, beautiful, funny, warm, young looking blonde WLTM attractive down to earth male for no strings fun, laughter and love. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416299**

Men seeking women

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DARREN 42, likes pubs, clubs, drives, meals out, motocross, seeks female, 28-35. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 389127**

ROBERT 6ft 4ins, blue eyes, brown hair, likes football, nights out, socialising, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417053**

55YR old male, 5ft 6ins, dark hair, loyal, likes keep fit, seeks special female to light my fire. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393333**

SLIM attractive man 51, GSOH, WLTM lady 45-55 for evenings out and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406259**

PAUL 63, seeks attractive younger lady for discreet daytime fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417121**

DAVE genuine guy, 6ft, black hair, blue eyes, medium build, likes sports, gardening, music, seeks female with GSOH and genuine. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 388372**

MALE 67, smoker, solvent, OHAC, seeking feminine, voluptuous woman, 60-65 for days out, weekends away, holidays and more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417043**

RICHARD 44, single, happy go lucky, likes pubs, clubs, socialising, seeking female for fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416995**

WIDOWER 70's, lonely, educated, well travelled, reliable, tactile, seeks fun, N/S lady for friendship and more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416481**

VICTOR, retired, 5ft 8ins, professional, seeks N/S lady for fun, friendship and happy times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 309157**

NICK 52, 6ft, slim, genuine, seeking slim female for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415881**

SINGLE dad, young 39, likes keep fit, walks, seeks slim lady, any age for fun, hopeful relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395747**

39YR old single dad, likes cosy nights in, seeks female for fun times, maybe more. Single mum welcome. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395807**

MALE 63, N/S, GSOH, genuine, caring, likes music, travel, meals out, casual drink, seeks female, 50-70 for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416997**

MARK 5ft 11ins, blond hair, blue eyes, slim-medium build, athletic, likes nights in/out, socialising, meals out, pubs, seeks female with similar interests and GSOH for fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411335**

SLIM attractive man, tired of lonely nights, seeks genuine lady for friendship and evenings out. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410261**

DAVE genuine guy, 6ft, black hair, blue eyes, medium build, likes sports, gardening, music, seeks female with GSOH and genuine. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 388372**

39YR old single dad, likes cosy nights in, seeks single, slim lady for fun relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396061**

MIKE 47, 6ft, easygoing, kind, considerate, seeks female, 25-45 for friendship and outdoor activities. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396367**

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Pumped up and pimped out Range Rover Sport

By James Parker

A regular supercharged Range Rover Sport not enough for you? Then try the first product to come from the newly-formed Special Vehicle Operations – the SVR.

At first glance, the Range Rover Sport SVR should be recognisable, if somewhat different from how you remember it. This is the pumped-up, pimped-out Sport, and while that might seem a world away from a typical Range Rover, the reality is buyers want more – which the SVR supplies in spades.

So with an SVR, you get 20in wheels (with the option of 21s) and other modest external flourishes including more vents at the front, side skirts and a large spoiler on top of the tailgate. More importantly there's more power under the bonnet from the 5.0-litre supercharged V8 and revised damper settings for better control.

The interior also gets some smart new seats and a retrim.

If it's subtle you're after, then the SVR might not be for you. Sure, finished in black you might mistake it for a standard car, but one brief blast from the exhaust will change all that. It squats on its huge wheels and the big front air vents – essential for cooling the engine and brakes – certainly give it some significant menace. It's clear that Land Rover is going Porsche chasing with the SVR, and although the name tag is new, it probably won't be long before the SVR logo signifies business.

Happily the SVR doesn't give away much in the way of practicality compared to the standard Range Rover Sport. The only concession is the reshaped rear seat, while still offering three seat belts is really optimised for two. However, there's still plenty of space front and rear, and although it's not as big as a full-size Range Rover, you should be able to deal with most eventualities. It even retains a useful amount of off-road ability; quite a lot more than anyone spending this much money would dare use in any case.

Snarl

Right from the moment you start the engine, the SVR lets you know that performance is the name of the game. There's a snarl from the exhaust that wouldn't be out of place in something with two seats, and there's the performance to back it up; the SVR has 543bhp to power it along and you hear every single one of them as it tears along.

For a car weighing 2.3 tonnes, the SVR is hilariously fast.

It doesn't fall apart when you try to do something other than go in a straight line either. Sure it's tall, but the steering is sharper than the standard car and helps you accurately place it on the road. The suspension changes are modest, but the SVR can be hurled about with impressive ease for something so large, and the brakes are more than a match for the performance.

Ultimately it's huge fun, but capable of being calm and controlled when you need it to be.

Make no mistake, the SVR is an expensive car; £93,450 before options to be precise, but then you are in no doubt that you're getting a lot for your money. The sporty new seats, leather everywhere, a slick infotainment system (although there's a high-end Meridian system for another £5,000), climate control, reversing camera – you name it. It's worth remembering at this end of the market, price isn't so much of an issue as it is a badge of honour.

Anyone who thinks the standard Range Rover Sport Supercharged – 0-62mph in 5.5 seconds and 155mph flat out – isn't quite fast enough will love the SVR, and while that might seem like a pretty small audience, the truth is the SUV market continues to grow whether you're spending £10,000 or £100,000.

It's no harder to live with than any other Range Rover (with the possible exception of petrol station visits) yet is undoubtedly more fun than any other.

This car summed up in a single word: Grunty.

If this car was a: Top Gear presenter, it would be looking for a new vjob.

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Audi's new A6 may well have just hit sweet spot

By Matt Kimberley

Thrilling it isn't, but the new Audi A6 is a wonderful everyday drive nonetheless.

It feels like the A6 has been around since Moses, but there are specific updates for this year.

Technophiles will like the new LED headlight options, including the fantastic Matrix LED units that blank off individual LEDs to maintain main beam illumination while avoiding dazzling other drivers.

Amazingly, the windscreen and front side windows are now double glazed as standard.

There's also a smoothly-integrated new infotainment system with more features, and of course engine revisions that take the most economical A6 up to 67.3mpg and 109g/km – but only in the right specification.

Not much has changed outwardly unless you care to break out your electron microscope, but versions with LED headlights, like this S line car, don't need fog lights any more.

The function is built into the complex LED units, so you won't see pointless extra lamps on the front.

The A6 has a deservedly superb image, whether it's as a long-legged company car or as a carry-all premium family bus.

It's well known for its refinement, materials quality and comfort – and all three are borne out with this 2015 update.

The Avant estate model is obviously the bigger of the two chief body styles, packing enough space for more or less anything you're likely to need to carry.

With the rear seats folded down there are van-like proportions to play with, but the normal boot area alone is enough for pushchairs, big suitcases or smaller pieces of furniture.

A nice touch is a cupholder design that grips containers firmly and stops them tilting.

Mechanically speaking, the car is also a great fit for the S tronic automatic gearbox, which helps waft the A6 along with dignity and quiet restraint.

It's supremely welcome in traffic, too, removing the strain often felt by your left leg.

A butter-smooth drivetrain is perfect for the A6.

It hums along so creamily, it's hard to believe that just a decade ago Audi was still using the clattery old TDI PD engines.

The latest common-rail 2.0-litre diesel is a marvellous thing, if lacking a little in outright punch in this car.

The ride is comfy enough, despite the 18-inch wheels here, and you immediately notice how big and stable it feels both in a straight line and through corners, where it grips like a barnacle to a boat.

Intelligent design means that the gearbox holds lower gears when going downhill, for example, to help with engine braking.

On the downside, the steering is rather elastic-feeling and doesn't have any real sense of connection to the front wheels.

The harder you drive along winding roads, the worse it seems to get.

The silver lining is that it's light and responsive at low speeds, making car parks lighter work than they might be.

Or you could just let the car park itself; you just need to select Drive and Reverse when the car tells you.

S line trim, the Avant body style and the S tronic gearbox bump this car's price up a few thousand pounds, but by A6 standards, it's not that pricey at all.

It might just be a sweet spot in the range, too, with maximum practicality, enough comfort and luxury and low running costs.

We managed just short of 52mpg on a 40-minute loop of mixed roads. Not bad for a big ol' barge like the A6.

This is such an effective all-rounder that many different types of people might buy it, for overlapping reasons.

Families who need space and technology, and business users who want comfort and prestige, are the primary groups likely to make a bee-line straight for the Ultra TDI version. And they'd be wise to do so.

This car summed up in a single word: Serene

If this car was a chauffeur it would arrive wearing an immaculate suit before demonstrating impeccable manners out on the road.

TESTED

Audi A6 Avant TDI Ultra S line, £37,935
Engine: 2.0-litre diesel producing 187bhp and 295lb/ft
Transmission: Seven-speed automatic driving all four wheels
Performance: Top speed 140mph, 0-62mph in 8.5 seconds
Economy: 57.6mpg combined (18-inch wheels)
Emissions: 115g/km of CO2 (18-inch wheels)

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Fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the Kia 'SR7' range are: Urban 32.1 (8.8) – 68.9 (4.1), Extra Urban 53.3 (5.3) – (3.3), Combined 42.8 (6.6) – 78.5 (3.6). CO_2 Emissions are 149 – 94g/km. MPG figures are official EU test figures for comparative purposes and may not reflect real driving results.

Models shown: Kia Rio 3-dr 'SR7' 1.25 84bhp 5-speed manual @ £10,845 including £1,000 customer saving, Kia cee'd 'SR7' 1.4 98bhp 6-speed manual @ £14,650 including £1,000 customer saving and Kia Picanto 'SR7' 1.0 68bhp 5-speed manual @ £9,610 including metallic paint with £700 customer saving. Customer savings vary by model derivative. Specification is subject to change without notice. Price, Reevoo score and number of reviews correct at time of going to press. †3 years' servicing (Kia Care-3) for £99 offer is only valid on applicable 'SR7' models. Log onto kia.co.uk/sr7 for full details. 7 year / 100,000 mile manufacturer's warranty, for terms and exclusions visit www.kia.co.uk. Offer not available with any other offer. Retail sales only. Subject to availability on vehicles registered between 01/04/2015 and 30/06/2015. Finance subject to status. Terms and conditions apply. 18's or over. Guarantee/indemnity may be required. 10% minimum deposit. Further charges may be made subject to the condition or mileage of the vehicle. Excess mileage charge 14.9p per mile. 25, 31 and 37 month terms. At the end of the agreement there are 3 options: (i) Renew: Part exchange the vehicle. (ii) Retain: Pay the Optional Final Payment to own the vehicle or (iii) Return the vehicle. Kia Motors Finance RH1 1SR. Brindley (Wolverhampton) 55 Penn Road Wolverhampton, WV2 4WW 01902 717702. **E L Bouts Motors Ltd trading as Brindley Kia Wolverhampton are a credit broker (not a lender) for the purposes of this financial promotion and can introduce you to a limited number of carefully selected finance providers and may receive a commission from them for the introduction. You will not own the vehicle until all payments are made.**

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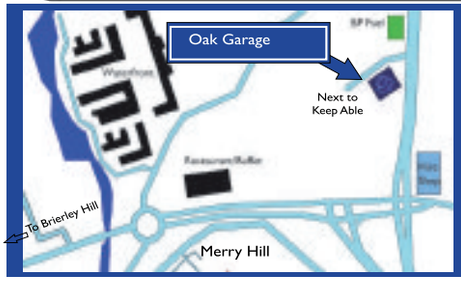

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2804

Golden trip celebrates 50 years of iconic Ford

By James Parker

Ford's golden convoy of Transits celebrating 50 years of the van icon has started a tour around dealerships, events and other shows until the commercial vehicle leader's actual anniversary on the weekend of Aug 8/9.

The tour by gold-coloured Transit Courier, Connect, Custom and two-tonne Transit models marks five decades of loyal service to businesses in UK and around the world.

Since the first vehicle left the production line in Langley, England, on August 9, 1965, almost eight million Transit and Transit Custom models have been built, and the Transit has grown from a single model to an entire family of Transit vans.

Lined up end-to-end, 50 years of Transits would circle the globe, and on average a new Transit has been bought every 180 seconds during its lifetime.

The latest expanded Transit line-up features four all-new models – Transit, Transit Custom, Transit Connect and Transit Courier – which are boosting demand for Ford commercial vehicles, with sales at an all-time high in March up 43 per cent at 16,497, compared with March 2014.

Essential

"The Ford Transit has touched the lives of most of us," said Mark Ovenden, chairman and managing director, Ford of Britain.

"From house moves to moving people, the Ford Transit is an essential tool to get the job done.

"It has become a mobile office or workshop for some – and loved by us all."

Launched in the same year that the first person walked in space, the Transit made an immediate impact, providing practical support to the booming economy. The Transit evolved with a vast range of bodystyles and variants: from the parcel van, through tipper trucks and campers, to outrageous one-offs, including the Cosworth V8-powered Supervans.

Growing popularity saw production of the Transit accelerate, and after passing the first million milestone in 1976, it rapidly passed the next ones in 1985, 1994, 2000, 2005, 2010 and 2013.

Add demand for the smaller Transit Connect – with more than one million sold – and the compact all-new Transit Courier, and total Transit production is scheduled to top nine million during 2015.

Improve

Transit has also introduced a list of technology innovations to help improve performance, comfort and safety; from features like side-loading doors, radial ply tyres and halogen headlights, to direct injection diesel engines, high security locks and standard anti-lock brakes.

The latest Transit models have added state-of-the-art technologies like Adaptive Cruise Control and Lane Keeping Aid.

The success of the Transit has seen production expand beyond Europe, including facilities in Nanchang, China and in 2014 the Transit entered North America for the first time, with the all-new two-tonne Transit being built in Kansas City, Mo.

This has helped extend the all-new Transit to 118 markets across six continents.

"Ford's Transit family continues to lead the way in innovation," Ovenden said.

"With 50 years of van sales leadership in the UK under its belt, the new four-van Transit range is looking forward to its next half century."

Dyer gets hard-fought winner for the Blues

Blues 1 Charlton 0

LLOYD Dyer emerged as Birmingham's match-winner in a hard-fought 1-0 Championship success over Charlton.

Dyer, a second-half substitute, demonstrated his shooting ability with a 20-yard angled shot in the 82nd minute which plunged plucky Charlton to only their second away defeat in six games.

Birmingham's win mirrored the success which has been generated since the appointment of Gary Rowett.

He has been inspirational and following their midweek success at Reading it was hardly a surprise that Birmingham were always in an attacking mood.

This was reflected in the fourth minute when Robert Tesche produced a speculative long-range swirling shot which Stephen Henderson tipped on to the outside of the post.

Johann Berg Gudmundsson attempted a similar tactic for Charlton but it lacked the power to pose any real problem for goalkeeper Darren Randolph.

There was a spark of inspiration from Demarai Gray but the youngster was effectively stopped in his tracks by former Birmingham stalwart Roger Johnson.

Youngster Gray is used sparingly by Rowett, who likes to restrict him to home games when he is given to shine in front of the club's fans.

His first effort was easily saved by Henderson while his second curling attempt hit the outside of the post.

It was a fair reflection of the game that Charlton were always a danger.

Lescott happy with first season

Joleon Lescott with the Player of the Year trophy

ALBION star Joleon Lescott insists he has enjoyed his first season at The Hawthorns despite the Baggies' season of struggle.

Lescott, who won the club's first end-of-season award , says he has relished a return to regular action after moving from Manchester City.

"I enjoy playing," said the 32-year-old. "That's what I came here to do.

"As a club and a team we had an ambition and a goal to stay in the league and that's still ongoing, but there's no substitute for playing football regularly.

"There have been ups and downs but our end goal hasn't changed and if we hit those it's an achievement.

"The club's ambition is to be a long-standing Premier League team.

"This season would be their sixth in a row in the Premier League, which would be an achievement in itself. If we can sign a new calibre of player in the summer then hopefully we can progress."

Lescott was named player of the season by the disabled section of the West Bromwich Albion Supporters' Club, who held their annual open day at The Hawthorns.

Around 65 disabled fans watched their heroes train from the stands before being treated to lunch and mingling with players.

Lescott received his trophy from seven-year-old fan Harry Mitchell.

Man City kills off comeback for Villa

Man City 3 Villa 2

SUBSTITUTE Fernandinho struck a late winner as Manchester City killed off Villa's comeback to claim a frantic 3-2 victory at the Etihad Stadium.

City looked to have thrown away victory as Villa recovered from 2-0 down with second-half goals from Tom Cleverley and Carlos Sanchez but Fernandinho had the final word in the 89th minute.

Goalkeeper Brad Guzan when, seemingly under no pressure, badly miskicked a Ron Vlaar backpass and effectively gave Aguero an open goal.

Naturally, City's ace marksman accepted the chance and slid home his 27th goal of the season with just three minutes on the clock.

City showed more purpose after the restart, with Navas breaking to the byline but finding no-one as he pulled the ball back across goal.

They looked to have made the game safe with Kolarov's superb free-kick after Fernandinho was felled 30 yards from goal in the 66th minute. The set-piece was cleverly disguised as Milner faked and Kolarov bent a low shotwhich gave Guzan no chance.

A free-kick to Villa caused problems in the City box and Jack Grealish's cross was only half-cleared. Cleverley came running on to the loose ball outside the area and drove a shot through several bodies and past Hart.

Another nightmare seemed to be unfolding for City when Hart flapped at a corner five minutes from time and Sanchez took full advantage.

Fernandinho drove home the winner.

Prospective Albion buyers check books

TWO possible buyers were inspecting Albion's accounts as new figures revealed the Baggies spend a bigger portion of their income on wages than any other Premier League club.

Two prospective new owners – including one from the Far East – have begun checking the books ahead of a possible takeover bid in the next six weeks.

And the news came as new figures showed more than 75 per cent of the club's income was spent on wages last season.

That was the highest percentage in the Premier League last term with only relegated Fulham rivalling the Baggies' figure.

In the year ending June 2014, Albion spent 75.5 per cent of their £86.8 million turnover on staff, with the vast majority of the £65.5m wage bill made up of players' salaries.

Relegated

Albion's income last season was the third lowest in the Premier League with only Hull (£84.5m) and relegated Cardiff (£83.1m) bringing in less money.

But the Baggies' wage bill was the 12th highest in the division.

Albion announced a club record pre-tax profit of £14.7m with both the turnover and wage bill the highest in their history.

The figures also showed the Baggies had the second lowest number of full-time staff among the 20 Premier League clubs with 159, with only Crystal Palace (142) having fewer full-time employees.

Meanwhile, a possible takeover is moving closer with two interested partiesexamining the books before deciding whether to bid, with chairman Jeremy Peace wanting a deal in place in principle by the end of May, although detailed takeover talks could extend later into the summer.

If no deal is advancing by the end of next month, Peace will halt his search and commit his own future to the club.

Several other possible buyers are still in talks while agents have contacted Peace claiming to represent businessmen.

But just two groups have so far started their 'due diligence'.

Cup fever gripping Villa fans

Villa fans queue around the ticket office to get the first Cup final seats. *Picture: BBCWM/Steve Hermon*

VILLA supporters are in the throes of FA Cup fever after final tickets went on sale on Monday.

Fans queued outside the Villa Park ticket office from the early hours to ensure their place at Wembley for the May 30 final against Arsenal.

The first supporter to snap up a ticket was Dave Lane, who was also there the last time Villa lifted the cup in 1957.

"I woke up at about 2.30am, made a cup of tea but then couldn't get back to sleep so I thought I might as well park up outside Villa Park," he said.

Villa beat Liverpool 2-1 in the semi-final earlier this month to set up a showdown with the Gunners.

Tim Sherwood's side are only the second Villa team to reach the final of the competition in the 58 years since they last won the Cup against Manchester United's Busby Babes. Sherwood will hope to go one better than the 2000 finalists who were beaten 1-0 by Chelsea.

Meanwhile, Christian Benteke's agent has played down fresh reports linking the striker with a summer move.

Manchester United and Liverpool had been linked with the Belgium international.

Grapple champ Chinu to fight for country

AN Olympic wrestler who trains in Birmingham has been chosen to represent his country in a contest first.

Chinu, aged 27, from Oldbury is a British and England freestyle wrestling champion and is the only man chosen to represent Great Britain in the first ever European Games in Azerbaijan.

The accomplished wrestler, who trains at the Fearless Wrestling Club, Birmingham is seven times British champion, five time English champion and won a bronze medal in super heavy weight 125 kg category at the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow last year.

The champion, who has been wrestling since he was a child, has also trained at Wolverhampton Wrestling Club, Cannock Road, Park Village.

Heathens are all ready to defend title

CRADLEY HEATHENS will begin their defence of the National League Cup next month after agreeing dates with Stoke Potters.

Will Pottinger's side – the holders – will go to Loomer Road, which was the Heathens' adopted home in 1996, on Saturday May 16 for the first leg of the quarter-final tie.

And the return date has been agreed for Wednesday May 27 at Perry Barr.

The Cradley versus Birmingham National League derby encounter, which is expected to be one of the meetings of the season, has now been put back to Wednesday, June 24, to make way.

Cradley chief Nigel Pearson said: "Our thanks to Stoke and Birmingham for working with us on this and it's nice to be able to agree fixtures so quickly and efficiently."

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Sport

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Survival is not certain, says Pulis

BOSS Tony Pulis has ordered Albion not to take Premier League survival for granted despite moving to the brink of safety against Liverpool on Saturday.

Pulis still insists the Baggies need 40 points to be secure after a goalless Hawthorns draw with Liverpool took them to 37 and left them seven clear of the drop zone with four games remaining.

"We had a poor set of results at home and that was most probably down to the mentality and listening to people saying we were safe with 33 points," said Pulis. People take their foot off the pedal and we're not good enough to do that. We have to be at 100 per cent all the time in every game we play.

"We have just played Liverpool, now we go on to Manchester United, we play Chelsea and Arsenal and Newcastle are in there.

"Every game is so tough in this league.

"I still think we've got to get to 40 points and that keeps you up most seasons.

"You can never take anything for granted. Just look at Leicester."

Albion's quest for safety comes against the backdrop of a possible takeover, with chairman Jeremy Peace awaiting possible bids from foreign investors who have shown in interest in buying his controlling stake.

"The chairman will keep that very close to his chest but he's told me if there's anything positive, he'll keep me informed," said Pulis. "He's a very astute man and he's said that if it's not sold by a certain time, that'll be it, he'll keep it and move forward."

Meanwhile, Pulis has confirmed pre-season preparations will start with a training camp in Austria, where he has previously taken Stoke and Palace.

Tipton take the drop but manage to go out on a high

Tipton 1 Lye Town 0

KALUM Evitts drilled home a free-kick three minutes from time to give Tipton Town a 1-0 win over Lye Town.

Tipton could do nothing to prevent their relegation on Saturday, but gave the home fans something to cheer as they bid farewell to the Midland League Premier Division season.

Keeper Jack Hayfield and the Tipton defence withstood plenty of pressure, and their bravery was rewarded when Evitts' came up with the late winner at least giving a his side a chance to out with a victory.

Bilston 2 Dudley Sports 2

Bilston Town shared the spoils with visiting Dudley Sports, drawing 2-2 in the West Midlands Premier.

Bilston took the lead after just five minutes when Ade Beckford flicked a header over the keeper and landed the ball in the back of the net.

Matt Perry kept his composure to level on 17 minutes, then Luke Williams put the visitors in front on the stroke of half-time.

With 10 minutes remaining, Chris Brown brought about the equaliser.

Albion season ticket prices to go up

Football

ALBION have announced a rise in season-ticket prices of up to 14 per cent for the 2015/16 campaign.

The Baggies have increased adult season-ticket rates by £50 – returning prices to 2011/12 levels following a price cut in 2012 and subsequent freeze.

Chief executive Mark Jenkins said the increase had been forced by 'competitive realities' but insisted the decision had been taken with 'great reluctance'.

Pensioners' prices will rise by £40 and students and under-21s by £30, while juniors' prices have been frozen. All price rises are subject to the Baggies remaining in the Premier League for next term.

"We have fought hard since 2012 to recognise the economic challenges our supporters face and freeze prices accordingly," said Jenkins.

"As the last national survey a year ago confirmed, only six clubs in the top two divisions could boast a lower average price than ours and even with these rises I expect the cost of football at The Hawthorns to remain one of the cheapest in the Premier League. So this is a decision taken with great reluctance. However, we have to acknowledge the competitive realities of staying in the Premier League. Of all the Premier League clubs, we commit the highest percentage (75.5 per cent) of our revenue to salaries."

Adult prices

Birmingham Road and Smethwick Ends: £399 online, £409 at ticket office price, £438.90 by direct debit.

East Stand Upper and West Stand: £499 online, £509 at ticket office, £548.90 direct debit.

East Stand Lower: £449 online, £459 at ticket office, £493.90 direct debit.

PULIS NEEDS TO TAKE STOCK

Albion 0 Liverpool 0

TONY Pulis has plenty to ponder in the pivotal summer that lies ahead for Albion.

But for the time being, his first Baggies mission is almost complete.

When Pulis embarks on his first full season in charge, the Hawthorns faithful will demand more pace, more creativity and frankly more attacking intent than their side showed in a 90-minute borefest against Liverpool that replicated so many dismal games this season.

Yet a goalless draw and a crucial point against one of the leading clubs in the country represented, to a large degree at least, a job well done for Pulis and his players.

And that effort typified the job the Baggies have done since Pulis arrived on New Year's Day – a job that has left them all but safe from relegation with four games to go.

The position they find themselves in, seven points clear of the bottom three with four games remaining, has not come easy and has rarely been enjoyable to watch.

Dreadful

And Saturday's latest chapter was no different.

For 60 minutes it was a dreadful spectacle with Albion sitting deep to nullify comfortably a Liverpool side operating at testimonial pace.

And for the final half-hour all of the best facets of Pulis's Baggies team – the ones which were so mysteriously absent in their previous two home performances – came to the fore as the visitors finally generated a head of steam and their hosts stood firm to repel everything that was thrown their way.

That stoicism, resilience, strength and sheer bloody-mindedness are the kind of qualities that will undoubtedly form the foundation for the first truly Pulis-built team, which should premiere in pre-season.

Nine clean sheets under the new boss says much for the effectiveness of the Welshman's training-ground efforts.

But fans, who have suffered two seasons of drab, turgid football, will want much, much more.

They will demand displays like the one Callum McManaman produced for almost half-an-hour on Saturday – a lively cameo that was at odds with the rest of the game but which offered supporters a glimmer of hope for August and beyond.

And they will hope for more of the same from James Morrison, who has rediscovered something akin to his best form since Pulis's arrival after two years when his best days as a Baggies player looked to have passed.

But for the paying spectators to be fully satisfied, Pulis will need a huge summer of transformation to create a side more like his pacy, counter-attacking Crystal Palace line-up and less like the dogged, often effective but usually boring 'Stoke-lite' that he has been forced to create to make the best of the meagre resources he inherited. Saturday's was the latest in a string of utterly forgettable encounters that have characterised the last two seasons.

It came to life for a 15-minute spell in the second half which at least gave the long-suffering supporters a couple of incidents to discuss in the pub.

Otherwise, though, it was a dreadful spectacle that was guaranteed to be last on Match Of The Day and was lucky to make the cut at all.

Albion had the game's first chance as Craig Dawson headed down a Chris Brunt free-kick and Craig Gardner's shot was turned towards goal by Victor Anichebe, who turned it just wide.

Albion's Saido Berahino and Liverpool's Glen Johnson battle for the ball

Loss takes the shine off celebrations

Tividale 0 Market Drayton 1

VISITORS Market Drayton Town spoiled Tividale's celebrations at saving their status by scoring the only goal of the final league game of the season.

The day was planned as a thank you for the support Tividale had received from individuals and companies in their finally successful quest to pass a ground inspection that secured their place in the Evo-Stik First Division South.

But the players could not raise their game to match the occasion and went down to a single goal.

On 19 minutes Tividale had their best chance of the first half when Danny Ashton raced down the right wing, pulled the ball back from the by-line to David Bellis who played it into Edwards but from two yards he hit the cross bar.

On 28 minutes Drayton took the lead in bizarre circumstances when a long ball up field was not dealt with by the usually reliable Tividale keeper Charlie Price and he allowed Drayton striker Scott Ryan to nip in, round him and walk the ball into the net.

Tividale stepped up the pressure in the second half when Archer again cleared Read's bar.

They continued to press through out the half but Drayton's defence stood firm.

Botfield had an effort go wide on 72 minutes and Ashton had an effort saved by Read five minutes later.

Drayton were now in complete defence mode as Tividale had a penalty appeal turned down.

In a rare Drayton attack midfielder Courey Garratt was put through but Price made partial amends for his first half error when he was quickly off his line and blocked the shot.

Albion youngsters gun down Arsenal

Albion U-21s 3 Arsenal U-21s 0

ADIL NABI bagged a second-half brace as Albion U-21s produced a terrific display to defeat Arsenal 3-0 in the Barclays Under-21 Premier League.

Under-18 skipper Jack Fitzwater headed home Nabi's corner early in the first-half, before the forward hit two goals in five minutes after the break to seal an impressive victory.

Fitzwater rose highest at the back post to nod in Nabi's corner and score his first goal at under-21 level after 17 minutes.

The Baggies soon added a second when trialist Adam Campbell played in Adil Nabi who drilled his shot into the corner from an acute angle.

★★★

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